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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Chokehold case verdict decried

Civil rights leaders plan summit on racial justice after no charges are laid in death of Eric Garner PAGE 16

City hanging up the Muzak

#ottmuzik means callers on hold for City of Ottawa will wait to the tune of local music PAGE 4

ONSCREEN CHEMISTRY OFFSCREEN?

NO WAY, SAYS BRADLEY COOPER OF 'SERENA' CO-STAR J-LAW. 'I COULD BE HER FATHER' PAGE 23

Daniel Alfredsson is acknowledged by fans as he takes part in the warm-up skate before the Ottawa Senators play the New York Islanders on Thursday. The 41-year-old, who signed a one-day contract in order to retire with the Senators, left the ice to the sounds of Green Day singing, "I hope you had the time of your life." FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alfredsson returns home for a rest

What's next? Alfie says it's a bit of a blank page, but he wants to spend more time with his family

JOE LOFARO
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After 17 NHL seasons, 444 goals, and 713 assists, Daniel Alfredsson came back to his "adopted hometown" to say goodbye as he officially retired as an Ottawa Senator.

The 41-year-old hockey star left Ottawa for the Detroit Red Wings 17 months ago, but he wanted to return home for a ceremonial one-day contract to skate with his former teammates one last time Thursday evening.

"Coming here today, it's great to be back," he told a crowded conference room full of Senators and journalists at the Canadian Tire Centre Thursday.

Known as "Alfie" by his adoring fans, he left his other hometown of Goteborg at age 22 to join the Senators in what would be his first venture to North America.

On top of serving as Senators captain from 1999 to 2003, his storied career included a goal he scored against the Buffalo Sabres to send the Senators to the Stanley Cup final in 2007, the 2012 all-star game and winning a gold medal with Sweden at the 2006 Olympics.

A recurring back injury prompted him to call it quits three weeks ago when he made the difficult decision to hang up his skates this year and the No. 11 jersey.

Alfredsson also made his mark off the ice by being the face behind the You Know Who I Am campaign, which is aimed at getting people talking about mental illness — a subject that has touched his family.

"My work for the Royal Ottawa hospital has been a high point in my life," said Alfredsson. "Whatever I gave has been more than repaid in seeing the changes beginning to happen in some of the lives that I have touched."

The next chapter in his life is a bit of a blank page. He's not exactly sure what he wants to do, but said spending more time with his wife, Bibi, and four boys is something that he is looking forward to.

"Another new chapter will begin tonight," he said. "As we say thank you to Ottawa, the future may hold a role for me in hockey again, but not this year."

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

For more on Alfie's last skate with the Sens, see page 37.

Jail time for brothers in cyberbullying case

Manitoba siblings get 16 months for 'relentless attack' on 14-year-old PAGE 12

Bathroom breaks make for a lawsuit

Woman says she was fired while pregnant because she was going to the restroom too often PAGE 20

Return to sender

In this week's Kohler Report, our columnist tackles open letters — often stomach-turning and self-aggrandizing, are they ever necessary? PAGE 21

You put the shrimp in the coconut ...

This soup has a long list of ingredients, but it's quick to prepare PAGE 30

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Police treating east-end deaths as murder-suicide

Crime. Boy reportedly attacked, but escapes physical harm

MIKE CARROCCETTO
ottawa@metronews.ca

Ottawa police are investigating the deaths of a man and woman after receiving a call to a Beacon Hill North row-house complex near the corner of Ogilvie and Montreal roads at about 6:30 a.m. Thursday.

Phara Vincent lives on Beaconwood Drive in a unit just around the corner from the now-deceased couple. Vincent, a health-crisis nurse, told reporters at the scene, "If it's the couple we think it is, this is really devastating, as my son played with their son every afternoon.

"All families have disagreements, but to hear about this, I am shocked," added Vincent, who said she didn't know the couple well.

Reports say a boy who lived in the row house was attacked by his father, Yassin Mender, 60, with a knife, but he escaped any harm, apparently shutting himself up in a room and later finding his parents dead. His father reportedly hung himself.

The couple is said to have three children.

Police say they won't be releasing any further information until next of kin have been notified.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Forensics investigators emerge from a home on Beaconwood Drive where the bodies of a man and woman were discovered in what police are calling a murder-suicide. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Stranded loon to be saved by catamaran

A plan has taken shape for a loon rescue attempt on the partially frozen Pike Lake. METRO

They say they'll be equipped with dry suits, life preservers, ropes and a makeshift catamaran.

Residents in Edelweiss, Que., are bracing for an early-morning loon rescue on Friday.

"Ferris" the loon has been stranded in a small, shrinking pool of water in the middle of partially frozen Pike Lake while his relatives have flown south for the winter.

Celine Perrier, who lives nearby on Chemin Lac Pike, will attempt to rescue Ferris with area Coun. Christopher Harris. They will trek onto the lake in a makeshift catamaran — two canoes attached with two-by-fours — wearing dry suits and life preservers. The duo will be tethered to a group on shore by a rope.

"I certainly would not exchange my life for a loon. I'm a reasonable person," said Perrier. "I want to do it because I don't think we're putting ourselves in very much danger. We have a very solid plan."

The pair will have a plastic musky net to trap the bird, and somebody on shore will be ready to take the loon to the Wild Bird Care Centre on Moodie Drive in Ottawa.

Some have speculated that Ferris is too thin to fly or is injured, while others say the loon needs more than the small pool of water to take a run and take flight.

"I understand the idea of letting nature take its course, and I've done that on many occasions, but I've watched this loon. I saw this loon as a chick," said Perrier.

"I feel a bit of an attachment to it, just from watching it grow all summer."

La Pêche Fire Chief Jocelyn Lessard said the municipal fire department is not equipped to rescue a loon, but it's a different matter for humans.

On Wednesday, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) warned the public about going out on ice in their province.

"Not every lake is the same and varying winter weather conditions and temperatures can change ice conditions quickly," read an OPP news release.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

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City of Ottawa to make being on hold a little less annoying

#ottmusik.
Local music to replace elevator Muzak on city phone lines

LUCY SCHOLEY
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People who have endured elevator Muzak while waiting on the City of Ottawa phone lines will soon get a musical break.

The city launched its #ottmusik campaign on Thursday — asking for Ottawa musicians to submit music samples the city will play over the phone while callers are on hold.

So those waiting to pay for a parking ticket might hear the Acorn or the Hilotrons, rather than cheesy Kenny G-esque saxophone music.

"Why not listen to Ottawa music on the Ottawa phone line instead of some canned music from Las Vegas?" said Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson, adding that the city lines can be clogged with up to 400 calls if there's a snowstorm and people want their roads plowed.

While this initiative may not produce record album sales for local musicians, Watson said it could give those artists a little boost.

If a caller likes what she hears while on hold, she can check out the city's website and find out who the band is.

Ottawa musician Rolf Klausener called it a "very simple, but meaningful initiative."

"It would be much, much easier and probably cheaper to just put Muzak on," he said

"But for a little bit more cost, you can engage the local music scene, which is really strong in the city."

Anyone can send song samples through the Ottawa city website and a committee of professional musicians will narrow it down to 20 songs to recommend for the phone systems.

So tune those guitars. Musicians have until Jan. 12 to apply.

Ottawa musician Rolf Klausener plays during the launch of the city's #ottmusik project on Thursday at Capital Rehearsal Studios. Ottawa is asking local musicians to submit samples to play over the city's phone lines. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Rock 'U' grads could hit Bluesfest stage next year

Can you be the next Van Halen? Van Halen are seen in this file photo playing in Winnipeg in 2012. SHANE GIBSON/METRO

A new music program will look like the School of Rock, minus Jack Black.

The Bluesfest School of Music and Art is bringing in Rock 'U' to help kids, teens and even adults perform their favourite classic rock songs.

"We're starting to see growing interest on the part of adults to get involved in something like this as well," Mark Monahan, RBC Bluesfest's executive director, said in a news release. "Seems like many of them have harbored the idea of one day being in a band, but never had the opportunity."

Big name Ottawa bands

- Monkey Junk
- Hollerado
- Mumbo Jumbo Voodoo Combo
- Silkken Laumann
- The Balconies

The idea is that budding musicians will come out of the program with the confidence to play Led Zeppelin, Van Halen or Journey, for example, onstage.

Existing cover bands can sign up, or musicians who are looking for a spot in a group to hone their skills. Professional musicians will work with the bands for two hours every week. Rock 'U' "graduates" could play onstage at Bluesfest next year.

Rock 'U' starts January 10 with an introductory session and then will run every Saturday for two hours until April 11.

The first four weeks costs $199. That includes two-hour rehearsals every week, plus an additional half-hour of private sessions.

You can register online at bsoma.ca or by phoning 613-627-2762.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO

Underground dance party

TIMEKODE meets the makers

A special underground dance party is turning nine-years-old this Friday with a big bash at Maker Space North that should get everyone bumpin'.

TIMEKODE DJs Zattar, Memetic, Magnificent and the legendary Trevor Walker will be dropping beats all night long at the dance party's new digs at 250 City Centre Ave. Ottawa has lost several underground dance music venues over the years, namely the Eri Café and Mugshots.

The new Maker Space will be home to TIMEKODE and many other underground dance events. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. with tickets at $10.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Charitable campaign

Federal employees raise $19.5M

Hundreds of federal government employees and retirees celebrated the success of the 2014 Government of Canada Workplace Charitable Campaign Thursday night.

The campaign announced it had raised $19.5 million to date in the National Capital Region. The money will help ensure vulnerable people in the National Capital region will continue to have access to a variety of charitable services, such as food banks, emergency shelters, health care groups, addictions counseling and other supports in the community, the fundraising campaign said in a statement. METRO

Ottawa Food Bank

14th annual Christmas party to help food bank

Mayor Jim Watson will host the 14th Annual Mayor's Christmas Celebration Saturday in support of the Ottawa Food Bank.

Activities at City Hall will be held both indoors, in Jean Pigott Place and Andrew S. Haydon Hall, and outdoors, on Marion Dewar Plaza and the SENS RINK of Dreams from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Non-perishable food donations will be collected for the Ottawa Food Bank.

For more information, visit ottawa.ca.

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CITY MATTERS → This is the last in a five-part series in which we hear what you, the people of Ottawa, have to say on city issues. → Read the whole series online at metronews.ca.

Ranking city services

Metro had MQO Research conduct a survey asking 600 people questions on everything from police services, snow clearing and road maintenance to the accessibility of restaurants, shops and public transportation. Respondents were asked to rate their satisfaction on a scale of 1 to 10, where 1 means "very poor" and 10 means "excellent."

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO
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10

Policing

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury says the numbers show the public has faith Ottawa police. He praised Chief Charles Bordeleau, pictured, for engaging the public on social media. The force works hard maintaining a solid image — taking a lead on initiatives like Walk a Mile in Her Shoes and the White Ribbon Campaign to deter violence against women. But some officers faced disciplinary and criminal charges in 2014.

7.4

Green spaces

CONTRIBUTED

Chair of the city's community and protective services committee Mark Taylor was happy to see the score, but said he isn't surprised as the city boasts hundreds of community parks, lots of green space and world-class views of the Ottawa River and Parliament Hill.

Taylor said there are projects that will add even more green space to city parks, like the Great Lawn project at Lansdowne Park, which boasts green space the size of Parliament Hill's front lawn. Cleanup and tree planting projects run by staff and volunteers also keep the city clean and green, he said.

7.7

Garbage collection

METROLAND NEWS SERVICE

Weekly garbage pickup was a hot issue during the recent election with a slate of 15 candidates running on a platform with a priority to bring back weekly pickup. None of those candidates won in their respective wards. Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson wasn't thrilled with the rating and hopes people start to buy into the recycle-first mentality, as bi-weekly pickup saves taxpayers $10 million a year.

"Sometimes change is a little challenging for some people and they're reluctant to embrace it," he said. "My hope is that as more and more people start using the green bin and they realize it's a way of not having the city go and find a new landfill, then we'll see those numbers go up."

6.5

Snow clearing

SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Despite the city blowing its budget on a couple of record snowfalls early last year, Ottawans see snow clearing as a fairly efficient service. Ottawa got dumped on last year with almost 100 centimetres of snow in December alone. The city ran a deficit of just over $21 million on snow clearing from two winter wallops. Rideau-Vanier Coun. Mathieu Fleury said the city makes sure transit and main roads come first to get commuters to where they need to be in the mornings.

"The policy that council adopted that defines what should be plowed first is generally well-received," he said.

6.8

Road maintenance

FLICKR/CC-BY-2.0/THE TIRE ZOO

General-manager of infrastructure services Wayne Newell said the city is injecting $51 million into the citywide road surfacing program and about $540 million in capital projects that will "maintain, renew and protect" the city's infrastructure assets. That equates to 185 kilometres of repaved roadway, said Newell.

Over the last decade funding levels have not kept pace with asset maintenance and renewal need. In 2012, council increased annual funding from $80 million a year to $165 million per year within the next 10 years (in 2012 dollars). The budget for 2014 is $93,194,000.

5.7

Cost of municipal water services

METRO FILE

Ottawans seem to be all over the map when it comes to the price of water. About six per cent of those polled said the city is a "very poor" performer when it comes to the cost of municipal water services, while only five per cent said the cost is "excellent." Only 28 per cent rated the service at eight or higher with about 48 per cent landing in the middle, and it seems that Ottawans aren't sure if they pay a lot on water or a little.

Residents could be unhappy because Ottawa approved water and wastewater increases of seven per cent in both 2013 and 2014, which are in line with the city's Long Range Financial Plan.

5.9

5

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Believing sexual assault victims

Police. Even if no charges are laid, victims can still be believed

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Not the only avenue for healing. Not all sex assault complaints end up in court, not because victims aren't believed, but sometimes because police don't have enough evidence to lay charges, say investigators. SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Just because your complaint of sexual assault does not result in a criminal charge, it doesn't mean you're not believed.

That is the message the Ottawa Police Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit wants to send out to victims who have reported their abuse to police.

The fear of not being believed can be one of several barriers to sexual assault victims in filing an official complaint.

A low conviction rate for sexual assaults, the victim knowing the accused, reliving the trauma by telling your story, and coming from a marginalized group are just a few other barriers that make coming forward a challenge, according to Yamikani Msosa, public education coordinator of the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Ottawa (SASC).

A SASC member accompanied an Ottawa mother Tuesday as she testified at a College of Chiropractors of Ontario discipline hearing where she testified her chiropractor allegedly sexually assaulted her multiple times at his office in 2011.

She testified police did not take her complaint seriously.

But Staff. Sgt. Angela McDade with the Sexual Assault section said every complaint is treated on a case-by-case basis and police would never turn anyone away.

"Just because a charge isn't laid doesn't mean we don't believe the victim. That's not the case. A lot of times it's a case where we don't have the evidence to proceed," she said.

While McDade said she wasn't familiar with the woman's complaint, she said she could not comment on it even if she did due to privacy reasons.

Even if the governing body for chiropractors finds that the chiropractor did sexually abuse a patient and relays that information to police, investigators would still need to talk to the victim to consider laying a charge, said McDade.

So, where does a victim turn when criminal charges are not an option?

Free and private counselling services, the Ottawa Rape Crisis Centre, and the Compensation Board of Canada, for example, can provide victims with other ways of healing, said Msosa.

"This is part of why we need to talk more about sexual violence and not make it a taboo subject," she said, "because it's real."

The Sexual Assault Centre of Ottawa has a 24-hour crisis line at 613-234-2266 and the Ottawa Police Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit can be reached at 613-236-1222, ext. 5944.

Priest charged with assault of boy

An Ottawa priest was released from custody Thursday after police charged with him with sexually assaulting a 14-year-old boy.

The Ottawa Police Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Unit started investigating the priest in February after receiving a complaint about an alleged sexual assault at a west Ottawa church in 2008.

Police charged Father Stephen Amesse, 56, with two counts of sexual assault and two counts of sexual interference.

He appeared in court by video link Thursday afternoon.

The court released Amesse from custody on a $5,000 bond.

Evidence presented at Amesse's bail hearing is protected by a publication ban and cannot be reported.

While out of custody, Amesse must reside at his address and must not communicate with anyone under the age of 16 unless he is in the presence of a parent or guardian.

He also cannot attend any parks or attain a paid or unpaid activity in which he would be in a position of trust for someone under the age of 16.

In a statement to members of the media, the Archdiocese of Ottawa said Amesse was suspended "from all ministry" immediately after the charges were laid.

"Archbishop Prendergast extends to the parishioners of St. Patrick's Fallowfield, where Fr. Amesse is pastor, the assurance of his prayers and pastoral care. These are painful moments in the life of a faith community. May the parishioners know the spiritual support of our entire Catholic community," wrote Archdiocese spokesperson, Sarah Du Broy.

"No other comment will be provided at this time."

Amesse is scheduled to return to court on Jan 12, 2015.

In a news release, police said investigators are concerned there could be other victims.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ottawa Police Service Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit at 613-236-1222, extension 5944.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by calling Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS), toll-free at 1-800-222-8477 or downloading the Ottawa Police iOS app. JOE LOFARO/METRO

Four people were killed, and one critically injured, when a scaffold on the east side of 2757 Kipling Ave. in Toronto failed. The apparatus, used to repair balconies, appears broken midway and hangs from the side of the building. Here, one side of the scaffold is taken down. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Firm fined for fatal collapse

Four workers killed in 2009 incident.
Scaffolding had been supplied by local swing stage company for a project in Toronto

An Ottawa company that supplied a swing stage involved in a deadly scaffolding collapse in Toronto on Christmas Eve 2009 has been fined $350,000 for failing to ensure the platform was in good condition.

Swing N Staff Inc. pleaded guilty to the charge in a Toronto court and also faces a 25 per cent victim fine surcharge.

One of its directors, Patrick Deschamps, pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the platform was in good condition and that it was designed by a professional engineer. He was fined $50,000.

Four migrant workers plunged to their deaths when the swing stage meant to hold two people collapsed.

They were among six people doing repairs on a high-rise building's balconies.

Alesandrs Bondarevs, Aleksey Blumberg, Vladamir Korostin and Fayzullo Fazilov fell 13 floors to their deaths. The men ranged in age from 25 to 40 years old and were from Latvia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

The construction company, Metron Construction Corp., pleaded guilty two years ago to criminal negligence causing death and was eventually fined $750,000 plus a victim surcharge — the first time in Ontario that the Criminal Code has been used to hold a company responsible for a worker's death.

Another director, Joel Swartz, was ordered to pay $90,000 plus a $22,500 victim surcharge fine for four convictions under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Labour says criminal and occupational safety charges against a supervisor are still outstanding.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fine for director

$50,000

A director of the company was fined $50,000 after pleading guilty to failing to ensure the platform was in good condition and that it was designed by a professional engineer.

Province reviews MPP severance pay

The Ontario legislature will look at changing the rules for severance pay after a rookie New Democrat became eligible for a $58,000 payout after only five months on the job.

Sudbury New Democrat MPP Joe Cimino quit suddenly in late November, citing personal issues for resigning a seat he won June 12.

All members of provincial parliament are eligible for a minimum of six months' severance pay for any term under four years.

Quoted

"It's up to the former NDP MPP or for Andrea Horwath to make a determination whether they want to accept the severance or not."

Government house leader Yasir Naqvi

But even NDP Leader Andrea Horwath admits getting a $58,000 severance after five months' work "will raise a lot of eyebrows" among Ontario taxpayers.

Horwath says she'd look forward to the government introducing possible changes to the severance package rules.

Government house leader Yasir Naqvi says the Board of Internal Economy will take a look at the severance packages but notes MPPs do not get a provincial pension, unlike their federal counterparts.

"It's up to the former NDP MPP or for Andrea Horwath to make a determination whether they want to accept the severance or not," said Naqvi. "It's an issue that the Board of Internal Economy may have to look at." THE CANADIAN PRESS

PETA has a 'rotten' idea

Extreme messaging. Billboard planned for Hamilton area compares dead man's corpse to animal meat

Animal rights activists hope to put this stark message on a Hamilton billboard after a woman admitted to keeping her husband's corpse for months while waiting for his resurrection. CONTRIBUTED

Animal rights activists with PETA are hoping to plaster a stark message on a Hamilton billboard, days after a devout Christian woman admitted to keeping her husband's corpse in a bedroom for months, waiting for his resurrection.

"We hope that anyone, if they've been shocked by the decision to keep a body in their home, will stop and consider what they are keeping in their own kitchens and refrigerator," PETA spokesman Dan Carron said. "We're hoping that the billboard is going to help make something good come out of a very sad story."

That's unlikely, said York University marketing professor Alan Middleton. Middleton said extreme messaging is a hallmark of PETA advertising and often only mobilizes the group's hardcore supporters.

In 2003, PETA ran an ad campaign comparing the treatment of Jews in the Holocaust to the treatment of animals on factory farms.

Meanwhile, PETA said it's in "negotiations" with five companies to run the new ad. Four of those companies, however, either don't have billboards in the Hamilton area or didn't know about the request when contacted by Metro.

Randy Otto, president of Pattison Outdoor, one of the companies PETA said it has contacted, was unaware of the proposal. He wouldn't comment on if his company would run that kind of an ad, but said Pattison is a member of Ad Standards Canada and abides by their rules.

Ad Standards Canada administers a national advertising code of conduct, which in part prohibits ads that undermine human dignity.

Earlier this week, Hamilton's Kaling Wald pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to notify police that her husband's corpse was in their home.

Peter Wald had diabetes, and died about six months ago after his left foot became infected. He had refused to go to hospital, believing instead that God would cure him, according to court records.

"His wife is a devout Christian and her faith tainted and warped her better judgment," Assistant Crown attorney Janet Booy said this week, explaining Kaling Wald's wait for her husband's resurrection.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD/ METRO IN TORONTO

Quebec. Labour group vows to fight new pension law

Quebec's largest labour group has promised to mount a legal challenge against pension legislation that breezed through the national assembly Thursday.

Bill 3 provides for a 50-50 split between municipalities and unionized workers on pension contributions and deficits.

Amendments sought by the Parti Quebecois and agreed to by the Liberals open the door to workers paying between 45 and 50 per cent, with municipalities paying between 50 and 55 per cent.

If the two sides can't reach an agreement, the 50-50 scenario will apply.

The government says the legislation was necessary to help municipalities grappling with pension deficits that, across the province, could total as much as $3.9 billion.

The Quebec Federation of Labour said it is considering a legal fight, arguing the law is unconstitutional.

The secretary-general of the labour group called the law's passing "a day of mourning" for the municipal world.

"Not only has the Liberal government of Philippe Couillard remained insensitive to the demands of workers and retirees in the municipal sector, but he also refuses to make public the status of pension deficits, as if he wanted to hide the truth from the people,'' Serge Cadieux said in a statement.

Cadieux said the actual municipal pension deficits are half of what they were in 2012.

Municipal Affairs Minister Pierre Moreau called on unions to put their energy into negotiating.

"We are comfortable with the idea that this bill meets all the requirements to successfully withstand any court challenges.''

The government had hoped to pass the bill before Christmas and Moreau said he's happy it went through with only limited delays.

Quoted

"We have a cause that's deeply just and we'll go on right to the end."

Marc Ranger, labour coalition spokesman

Bill 3 triggered widespread protests among municipal workers over several months and unionized workers are promising to continue their battle.

"We have a cause that's deeply just and we'll go on right to the end,'' said Marc Ranger, a spokesman for the main coalition fighting the legislation.

Members, he noted, are as outraged as ever and their movement remains strong.

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Brothers jailed for cyberbullying girl

Impact 'devastating'. Two 17-year-olds harassed girl, 14, demanding sexually explicit images

Two Manitoba brothers have been sentenced to 16 months in jail after what a judge called a "relentless attack" of cyberbullying and sexual exploitation designed to "exploit, demean and humiliate" a 14-year-old girl.

Judge Donald Slough said a friend of the brothers met the girl on Facebook a year ago. In his written sentence released Thursday, Slough said the man told the victim to send him nude pictures or "he would do something to her."

When she sent him a picture of her exposed breasts, the man demanded she send more explicit pictures or he would send her nude picture to everyone in the community, Slough said. She complied.

The brothers, who were 17 at the time and cannot be named, found out about the pictures and started harassing the victim, Slough said.

"The communication was intense and relentless, occurring both day and night," the judge wrote. "The accused, acting in tandem, alternatively flattered and abused the victim, demanding progressively more explicit images; instructing the victim as to what sexual acts she was to perform and digitally record."

The brothers distributed the photos through social media, Slough said.

The brothers were arrested in May and pleaded guilty to four charges including sexual touching and possession and distribution of child pornography.

Slough said the impact on the 14-year-old has been "devastating and long-lasting." The girl went "from being happy to being deeply troubled."

Experts say this kind of "sextortion" is becoming more common. The Canadian Centre for Child Protection recently warned it is seeing an alarming increase in the number of teens who are sharing sexual images of themselves and then being extorted, sometimes for money. THE CANADIAN PRESS

'Sextortion'

Ten months later, the victim still has extreme anxiety, the judge wrote.

- **The brothers distributed photos of the girl through social media**
- **Her parents went to police after noticing a change in her behaviour.**

25 years after Montreal massacre

Students walk through a hall at Parkdale Collegiate Institute in Toronto holding a photo of one of 14 women killed in the mass shooting at École Polytechnique on Dec. 6, 1989, as part of a vigil held Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of the massacre. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Serial killings

Pickton inquiry recommendations enacted, B.C. says

British Columbia's government says it has taken action on 75 per cent of the 62 recommendations made two years ago after a public inquiry into the Robert Pickton serial killings.

Attorney General Suzanne Anton says the actions are helping vulnerable women and include expanding cellphone service along the so-called Highway of Tears, a remote stretch of northern highway where women have disappeared.

Anton says some of the children of missing and murdered women have already received $50,000 compensation payments.

Pickton was convicted in 2007 of the murders of six women and was sentenced to life in prison. He admitted to killing 49 women. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Bill S-7 under fire

Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act. Bill seeks to keep polygamists out of country, prevent forced marriages

Title an issue

"In that title, if you wanted 'barbaric cultural practices' ... I wished you had added something like 'violence' in there."

Conservative Sen. Raynell Andreychuk, on the title of Bill S-7

The need for — and even the name of — a new Conservative bill aimed at barring polygamous and forced marriages came under fire Thursday in the Senate.

Bill S-7, entitled the "Zero Tolerance for Barbaric Cultural Practices Act," amends immigration and criminal laws with the aim of keeping polygamists out of Canada and preventing women and girls from being married against their will.

"We wish we could say in the Canada of 2014 that these were no longer challenges for us domestically," Immigration Minister Chris Alexander told the Senate human-rights committee. "But as we know from communities across the country and from the daily fact of violence against women, there remain challenges, and we remain duty-bound to act against them."

Conservative Sen. Raynell Andreychuk raised concerns, however, that the government's stated goal of combating violence risks being overshadowed by the bill's dramatic title.

However, Alexander defended the name. The fact it has generated debate means it's already doing its job, he argued.

"What is a barbaric practice? It is a practice that is unacceptable; it is a practice that involves violence that is in many respects indiscriminate, gratuitously meted out, behind closed doors, where women and girls are defenceless, whereby whole families conspire to ensure underage women lie about their age, take part in a forced marriage," he said.

Andreychuk later said if the government does believe violence against women is addressed by the title of the bill, she is satisfied with it.

The new law would deny entry to Canada to those seeking to practise polygamy, which is illegal in this country.

It would also require "free and enlightened consent to marriage" and sets a federal minimum age for marriage at 16.

It also makes it an offence for anyone younger than that to be taken out of Canada to be married elsewhere.

This is a reference to the polygamous community of Bountiful, B.C., where it's believed teenage girls are shuttled back and forth to the U.S. for marriage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. to euthanize birds under quarantine

A poultry farm under quarantine because of an outbreak of avian influenza is pictured in Chilliwack, B.C., on Thursday. The Canadian Food Inspection Agency says that there are now four farms in the Fraser Valley under quarantine due to the outbreak. Harpreet Kochhar, Canada's chief veterinary officer, said federal and provincial government agencies will be looking for any sign the virus has moved beyond those four farms. Kochhar said it's still not clear how the birds at the first two farms were infected. The agency focused on the additional farms because they had each received birds from the Chilliwack chicken operation. All of the birds that are still alive at the four farms will be euthanized. PHOTO: JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS; TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Boy held gun on abuser. Sex offender gets 3 years

A B.C. Supreme Court justice sentenced a Maple Ridge sex offender — who was once held at gunpoint by a 10-year-old boy — to three years in prison for sexual abuse.

Now in his 40s, the victim testified he was sexually abused in 1983 by Richard Elbertson Richardson while Richardson was babysitting him and his older brother.

The victim used Richardson's rifle and held him at gunpoint in his Maple Ridge house until the brothers' mother arrived, the court was told.

Richardson was convicted in May of sexually abusing the young boy and his older brother, who was 15 at the time.

In the intervening years, Richardson was convicted of sexual assaults in Port Coquitlam in 2005, 2009 and 2011.

The court was told that the two brothers suffered in shame for years, but the younger brother contacted police a few years ago after seeing a police notice about Richardson.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Bruce Greyell sentenced Richardson to three years in prison for his sex crimes involving the brothers.

The judge also imposed a three-year probation period on Richardson. One of the release conditions ordered by the judge was for Richardson not to attend public parks, school grounds, playgrounds, swimming pools and other places where people under 16 years of age are present.

NEAL HALL/FOR METRO IN VANCOUVER

Mitigating factors

The judge took into account the fact that Richardson had suffered a brain injury in a car accident when he was five years old. He was then placed in the Woodlands School in New Westminster, where Richardson was physically and sexually abused by staff and other "inmates."

- The judge said the injury left Richardson "unable to control his sexual impulses because of a deeply ingrained pattern of sexual arousal which was the result of sexual abuse."

Vacancies. Harper in no rush to fill Senate seats

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says he's in no hurry to fill vacancies in the Senate.

Harper said he's not hearing much popular support for naming new members to the upper chamber, where 16 of the 105 seats remain empty — and the Conservatives still hold a healthy majority.

"I don't think I'm getting a lot of calls from Canadians to name more senators right about now," Harper said.

Harper's enthusiasm for the Senate — more specifically, reforming or abolishing it — was also fettered in April when the Supreme Court of Canada made it clear that Senate reform would require substantial provincial blessing.

His latest comments were prompted by concerns raised by newly appointed Senate Speaker Pierre Claude Nolin, who said he believes the shortage of senators is affecting the chamber's productivity.

"Is it affecting the proper functioning of the institution? Yes, I think it is," said Nolin.

From the government's standpoint, the sole purpose of the Senate is to pass legislation — a role Harper said it's able to carry out just fine.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawyer, lead plaintiff

Plea made for feds to recognize loss of cultural identity

The federal government needs to admit that thousands of aboriginal children were robbed of their cultural identities instead of continuing to fight a lawsuit, the lead plaintiff and her lawyer said Thursday.

Their comments follow a Divisional Court ruling dismissing Ottawa's attempt to have the $1.3-billion class action thrown out.

Under an agreement with the federal government that ran from December 1965 to December 1984, Ontario child-welfare services placed an estimated 16,000 aboriginal children with non-native families.

The lawsuit alleges the children caught up in the so-called '60s Scoop suffered a devastating loss of cultural identity. The children, the suit alleges, suffered emotional, psychological and spiritual harm due to the lost connection to their aboriginal heritage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Effort against ISIL

No civilian deaths from Canadian airstrikes: Military

The Canadian military is confident that no civilians have been killed to date as a result of its airstrikes against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a spokesman said Thursday.

That assurance came as the country's joint operations command revealed details of two additional bombing missions that took place on Nov. 28 and Nov. 30.

In the first strike, CF-18 jet fighters attacked targets near the city of Hit in the Sunni-dominated province of Anbar, where Iraqi troops — supported by Shia militias — recently sought to liberate the market town 130 kilometres west of Baghdad. The warplanes followed up with another mission near Mosul.

The question of civilian casualties has come up at every briefing. Navy Capt. Paul Forget moved Thursday to dispel doubts, saying there has been no indication of so-called "collateral damage."

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Civil-rights leaders decry decision in chokehold killing of Eric Garner

Grand jury decision. Second non-indictment of a police officer in as many weeks prompts civil-rights groups to march on Washington

Civil-rights leaders Thursday decried the grand jury decision not to charge a white police officer in the chokehold death of a black man and announced plans for a march and a summit on racial justice in Washington later this month.

National Urban League President Marc Morial said the lack of an indictment in the death of Eric Garner was "a travesty of justice."

The decision Wednesday not to bring charges against Officer Daniel Pantaleo triggered protests around the country and sent thousands into New York's streets, where they marched, chanted and blocked traffic. Police said 83 people were arrested, mostly on disorderly conduct charges.

Pataleo's lawyer and police union officials argued that the grand jury got it right, saying that the officer used an authorized takedown move — not a banned chokehold — against a man who was resisting arrest. And they said Garner's poor health was the main cause of his death.

To find Pantaleo criminally negligent, the grand jury would have had to determine he knew there was a "substantial risk" that Garner would die.

Acting at the Staten Island district attorney's request, a judge released limited details Thursday on the grand jury proceedings, including that four videos were shown and 50 witnesses — 22 of them civilians — were heard. The transcript of the proceedings and the 60 exhibits admitted into evidence were not made public, and the district attorney did not ask that they be released.

About 20 civil-rights leaders met behind closed doors Thursday at Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters. Sharpton said a civil-rights summit will be held following a Dec. 13 march in Washington. He said the topics will include education and boycotts.

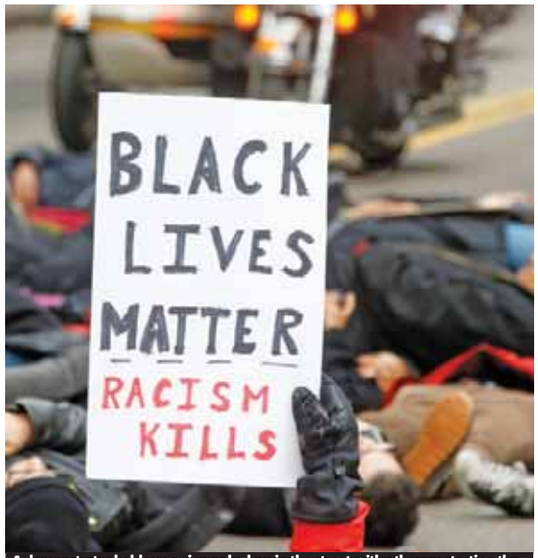
The Garner case — combined with the decision by a grand jury last week not to charge the white officer who shot and killed unarmed black 18-year-old Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. — stirred a national conversation about race, police training and the grand jury process.

Garner, 43, died after a scuffle that broke out July 17 as officers tried to arrest him for selling untaxed cigarettes on the street. The last moments of his life were caught on video, showing Pantaleo holding the unarmed Garner in a chokehold as he repeatedly gasped, "I can't breathe." The medical examiner ruled that the chokehold contributed to the death.

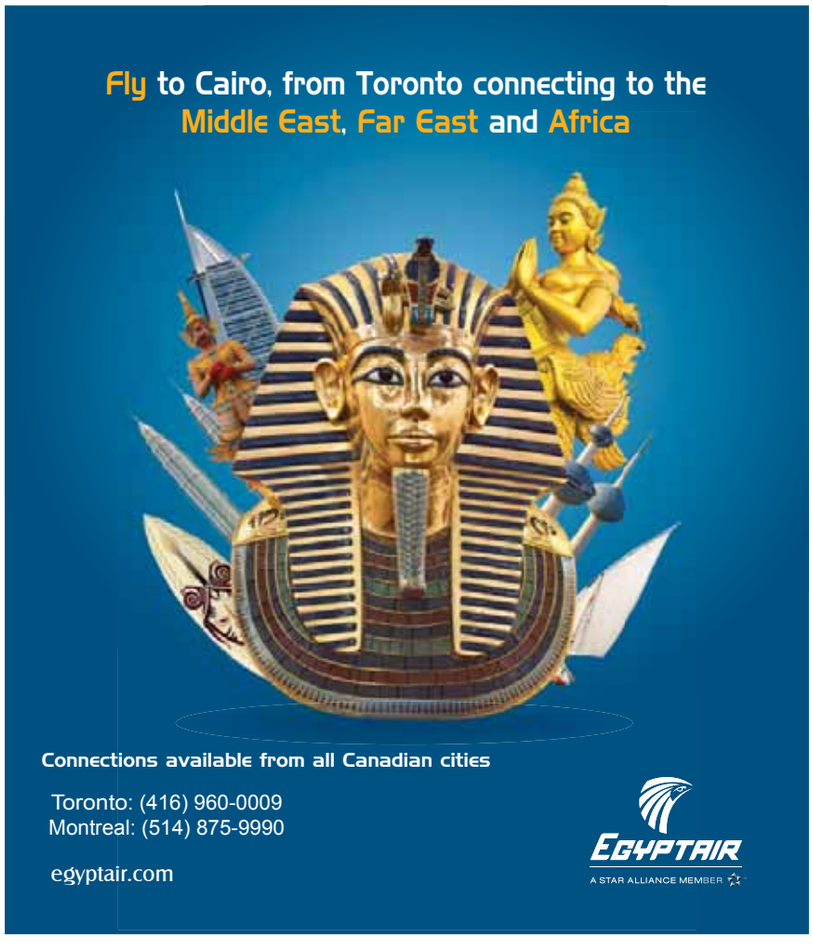
District Attorney Daniel Donovan said the grand jury found "no reasonable cause" to bring charges. But he gave no further explanation of how the panel arrived at its decision. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hilary Clinton weighs in

Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday the U.S. criminal-justice system is "out of balance" and she supports federal reviews of the police-involved deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Mo., and New York City.



A demonstrator holds up a sign as he lays in the street with others protesting the deaths of two unarmed black men at the hands of white police officers during a march through Pittsburgh on Thursday. KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cosby seeks dismissal of suit by woman claiming underage abuse

A woman suing Bill Cosby for sexual battery attempted to sell a story about the comedian to a tabloid a decade ago and tried to extort money in exchange for her silence, Cosby's attorney said in a court filing Thursday.

Attorney Martin Singer wrote in the filing that the lawsuit by Judy Huth and her attorney followed a failed attempt to extort $250,000 from Cosby. In the filing, Cosby seeks monetary damages from Huth and her attorney.

The filing comes two days after Huth sued, claiming the comedian forced her to perform a sex act in 1974 when she was 15. The incident occurred in a bedroom of the Playboy Mansion after Cosby gave Huth and a 16-year-old friend alcohol, according to her lawsuit.

Her lawsuit stated she discovered only recently that she had suffered psychological damage as a result of the incident, which under California law allows the filing of the case.

The filings state that Singer and Huth's attorney, Marc S. Strecker, had several conversations about the allegations in the weeks before the lawsuit was filed. Strecker first demanded $100,000, then raised the demand to $250,000 in order to keep from filing a lawsuit on Huth's behalf, Singer wrote.

Bill Cosby THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In recent weeks, more than a dozen women have alleged that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted them. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-cop in South Carolina who killed unarmed man charged with murder

A white man who was the police chief in a small South Carolina town was charged with murder Wednesday in the shooting death of an unarmed black man nearly four years ago.

Richard Combs worked in Eutawville when Bernard Bailey came to town hall to argue about his daughter's broken-taillight ticket in May 2011.

Combs tried to arrest Bailey on an obstruction of justice charge, prosecutors said. Bailey marched back outside to his truck, and Combs tried to get inside. The two briefly fought, and then the police chief shot Bailey, 54, twice in the chest in his pickup.

State investigators began reviewing the shooting in March 2013 after a U.S. Justice Department investigation determined Combs did not violate Bailey's civil rights. In August 2013, state prosecutors charged Combs with misconduct in office, which carries a maximum of 10 years in prison.

The indictment issued Wednesday gives no indication of why the state decided to seek a murder charge. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Filipino villagers flee as typhoon nears region devastated last year

Typhoon Hagupit. Might make landfall in Eastern Samar province on Saturday

Villagers in the central Philippines fled coastal homes and triggered panic-buying in grocery stores and gas stations as a fast-approaching powerful storm brought back nightmares of last year's deadly onslaught by Typhoon Haiyan.

Typhoon Hagupit — Filipino for "smash" — was packing sustained winds of 205 kilometres per hour and gusts of up to 240 km/h over the Pacific, about 700 kilometres off the country's eastern coast. Forecasts show it may hit Eastern Samar province on Saturday and barrel inland along the same route where Haiyan levelled villages and left more than 7,300 dead and missing in November last year.

Residents of Leyte province, Philippines, evacuate to safer ground on Thursday. PAUL CINCO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Haiyan survivor Emily Sagales said many of her stilledgy neighbours in central Tacloban city, which was ravaged by Haiyan, packed their clothes and fled to a sports stadium and the safer homes of relatives. Long lines formed at grocery stores and gas stations as residents stocked up on basic goods, she said.

"The trauma has returned," the 23-year-old Sagales said. In the wake of last year's typhoon — which killed her mother-in-law and washed away her home — she gave birth to her first child, a girl, in a crowded makeshift clinic filled with the injured and dying near the Tacloban airport.

"It's worse now because I didn't have a baby to worry about last year," she said.

"The sun is still shining, but people are obviously scared. Almost all of our rooms have been booked," said Roan Florendo of the Leyte Park hotel, near San Pedro Bay in Tacloban. The military was put on alert, evacuation centres were opened and food, medicine and body bags were sent out.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Second time around?

Haiyan demolished about a million houses and displaced about four million people in the central Philippines. Hundreds of residents still living in tents in Tacloban have been prioritized in an ongoing evacuation.

- Hotels in Tacloban, a city of more than 200,000 people still struggling to recover from last year's massive damage, were running out of rooms as wealthier families booked ahead for the weekend.
- Cabinet secretary Mario Montejo said Thursday it was almost certain the typhoon would slam into the eastern coast.

Chimp denied human rights

Animal rights.
Appeals court affirms that chimpanzees do not deserve basic rights such as freedom from imprisonment

A chimpanzee is not entitled to the rights of a human and does not have to be freed by its owner, a New York appeals court ruled Thursday.

The three-judge Appellate Division panel was unanimous in denying legal personhood to Tommy, who lives alone in a cage.

A trial-level court had previously denied the Nonhuman Rights Project's effort to have Tommy released. The group's lawyer, Steven Wise, told the appeals court in October that the chimp's living conditions are akin to a person in unlawful solitary confinement.

Wise argued that animals with human qualities, such as chimps, deserve basic rights, including freedom from imprisonment. He has also sought the release of three other chimps in New York and said he plans similar cases in other states.

But the mid-level appeals court said there is no precedent for treating animals as persons and no legal basis.

"So far as legal theory is concerned, a person is any being whom the law regards as capable of rights and duties," the judges wrote. "Needless to say, unlike human beings, chimpanzees cannot bear any legal duties, submit to societal responsibilities or be held legally accountable for their actions."

That, they ruled, makes it "inappropriate" to grant the rights of a human to the animal.

The Nonhuman Rights Project said it will appeal to the state's top court, citing other New York appeals-court rulings it says are at odds with Thursday's decision.

Tommy's owner, Patrick Lavery, said Thursday he was pleased and expected the ruling.

Tommy, believed to be about 40 years old, is a former entertainment chimp who was placed with Lavery about 10 years ago. Lavery said Tommy is cared for under strict state and federal licence rules.

The court noted there have been no claims that Tommy has been mistreated or any of those rules have been violated.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Needless to say, unlike human beings, chimpanzees cannot bear any legal duties, submit to societal responsibilities or be held legally accountable for their actions."

From the decision, written by a three-judge appeal-court panel

Prisoners honour Mandela

Ahead of the first anniversary of Nelson Mandela's death, inmates at the Zonderwater prison east of Pretoria, South Africa, have been making brightly coloured blankets to commemorate the anti-apartheid leader who became the country's first black president. The prisoners have crocheted the blankets as part of a charity project for poor communities. THEMBA HADEBE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland

Toddler recovering in kids' hospital

A Polish toddler found unconscious in sub-freezing temperatures hugged a teddy bear and called for his parents after only four days of treatment.

Adam, 2, spent an unknown number of hours outdoors in southern Poland after going missing from his grandmother's house in southern Poland.

His body temperature was only 12.7 C and his heart was beating extremely slowly when hospital treatment began early Sunday.

Dr. Janusz Skalski, a heart surgeon at the hospital, said Adam's quick recovery surprised everyone, but said he will still need rehabilitation therapy to help restore his full physical and mental abilities.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida

School accused of promoting deceit

Prosecutors say a for-profit Florida college used exotic dancers as admissions officers, falsified documents and coached students to lie on financial forms as it fraudulently obtained millions of dollars in federal money.

The Florida Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney in Miami announced Wednesday they were joining a civil lawsuit against FastTrain College and former owner Alejandro Amor, 56, who ran seven Florida campuses.

The complaint says FastTrain and Amor bilked the U.S. Department of Education for millions of dollars with falsified grant applications. The complaint says strippers on at least one campus tried to draw young male students.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dollarama. Discount store facing rising costs

Dollarama is facing rising costs, including higher minimum wages, new duties on imports and the inflationary impact of a lower Canadian dollar.

"We're hearing about even price increases on incoming inbound freight from the Orient," CEO Larry Rossy said Thursday during a conference call to discuss third-quarter results.

The Montreal-based retailer said labour costs are rising as five provinces have increased minimum wages by an average of 2.5 per cent and a lower loonie is driving the cost of imports that fill its store shelves higher.

Costs are also expected to rise when tariffs increase on many imported products from China and other countries starting in January.

Dollarama said it plans to offset the higher costs by improving its efficiency rather than cutting jobs.

"You have to appreciate that the dollar store business is a labour-intensive business," Rossy told analysts.

Despite the challenges, the discount retailer beat expectations as its profits surged on improved same-store sales. It earned $73 million for the three months ended Nov. 2. That compared to $61.7 million a year earlier.

Dollarama opened 11 net new stores in this quarter, mainly in Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta. It remains on track to open 75 to 80 net new stores in its financial year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lawsuit over toilet breaks

Work. Woman alleges pregnancy and gender discrimination after being told she was taking too many bathroom breaks

An Oregon woman is suing her former high-tech employer for more than $400,000 US, contending she was fired while pregnant with her second child after being told she took too many restroom breaks.

The suit filed in circuit court says Dawn Steckmann and other employees were never told they needed to clock out before using the restroom at Maxim Integrated Products, The Oregonian reported. The company makes wafers for wireless devices at its plant in the Portland suburb of Beaverton.

Maxim lawyer Melissa Healy declined comment, citing the pending litigation.

The lawsuit alleges pregnancy and gender discrimination.

It says when Steckmann was pregnant with her first child in 2011, she asked a supervisor whether she should go off the clock because she was urinating more frequently, and was told that wasn't necessary.

During her second pregnancy in 2013, restroom visits were more frequent because of a bladder condition caused by her first pregnancy, and "she would not even have had time to clock out to use the restroom without an accident," the suit says.

In June 2013, Steckmann was called to a meeting with her supervisor and a human resources manager who asked why she was not clocking out for restroom breaks.

Her supervisor claimed he had told Steckmann she needed to clock out. The human resources manager told Steckmann that for all he knew, she could be watching movies in the bathroom, according to the lawsuit.

Steckmann is seeking compensation for lost wages and benefits, damage to her reputation and emotional distress. She also asks to be reinstated in her job as a fabrication technician making $18.76 US per hour.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 87.91¢ (-0.07¢)

TSX 14,469.95 (-284.11)

OIL $66.81 US (-$0.57)

GOLD $1,207.70 US (-$1.00)

Natural gas: $3.66 US (-$0.15)
Dow Jones: 17,900.10 (-12.52)

Alix Box, president and CEO of Second Cup, sits at the "slow bar" at a redesigned Second Cup Coffee outlet in Toronto on Thursday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Second Cup. Chain perks up format with 'slow bar'

The Second Cup Ltd. has unveiled a new-format store that includes a redesigned circular "slow bar" where patrons can plug in their personal electronics while they sit and watch servers work an array of high-end brewing machines.

The new store at King and John streets — in Toronto's theatre district — is part of the specialty coffee chain's attempt to inject new life into a Canadian brand that has languished in recent years.

Among other things, the new-look Second Cup café has a steampunk coffee and tea brewing system that the company describes as "true theatre in motion."

It has also collaborated with Canadian artists to design special paper cups: Optimism by Matt Andres of British Columbia, Creativity from Adrian Forrow of Ontario, and Collaboration by Zela Lobb from Quebec.

The Mississauga, Ont.-based franchise company has been working for months to recover its position in the Canadian market, hiring Alix Box — who has held senior positions at Holt Renfrew and Starbucks — as its chief executive in February.

Second Cup has been faced with increased competition in recent years from both high-end coffee retailers such as Starbucks and major restaurant chains like Tim Hortons and McDonald's.

In the third quarter, it reported a $26.2 million loss — mostly due to a writedown of its trademarks' value.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giant backlog

L.L. Bean duck boot too popular

Demand for L.L. Bean boots is surging — so much so that some customers will have to wait until February to get their holiday purchases.

A backlog of 60,000 orders of the rubber-bottomed, leather-topped "duck boot" could grow to 100,000 by month's end.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diapers, baby wipes

Amazon launching line of baby gear

Amazon is launching its own line of diapers and baby wipes exclusively for its Prime members in the U.S. to get more shoppers to sign up for the $99 US annual program.

The new line, Amazon Elements, will mean tougher competition for traditional consumer product companies, said Bernstein Research analyst Carlos Kirjner, and they may have to change the way they sell and price their own goods.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Giving a jolt

Starbucks aims to speed up lines

Starbucks plans to let customers across the U.S. order ahead of time on their smartphones over the next year, a move that should help keep lines in check as it pushes more snacks, sandwiches and even wine.

In select areas, the chain also plans to offer delivery by late 2015.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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VOICES

CLOSE THE ENVELOPE ON OPEN LETTERS, PLEASE

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

I'd write an open letter to open letters if I could stomach writing an open letter. I find it difficult to read one without cringing at least once.

I can't quite put my finger on why, but I guess it's that they're publicly private in a way that makes me uncomfortable; like a drunk wife berating her husband for his lack of table manners in front of dinner guests (think Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?). It's not that I have a problem with people publicly voicing their opinions (clearly, I write a column that appears on a page of the paper called "Voices"), it's that I wonder why you would feel the need to make it personal.

We've seen a rash of open letters this year — Sinead O'Connor to Miley Cyrus, Jian Ghomeshi's TMI opus to the world — and this week that rash looked like it needed some ointment.

Last week we had that (really dumb) one from Republican Party communications director Elizabeth Lauten to the Obama girls. In it, Lauten admonished Sasha and Malia for not having enough "class" while attending the Turkey Pardoning. First of all, give those kids a break — I'm sure they'd rather be hanging out with friends than their dad and an undercooked piece of poultry. Second, Ms. Lauten, how "classy" is it for a GOP staffer to attack the First Children on her Facebook page? I guess it's classy enough to warrant your resignation.

We also saw an O.L. from model Arisce Wanzer to Kendall Jenner. The bitter tirade scolds Jenner for not having had to work as hard as other models to find success.

"Take a moment and remove yourself from your current situation ... to a life that isn't riddled with excess and only hearing the word 'yes'," Wanzer writes.

I get it, yes: People with golden horseshoes up their genetically superior rear ends are irritating, and I'm always in the mood for a good Kardashian bashing. But this isn't Kendall Jenner's fault, it's the modelling industry's. They're the ones that gave Jenner the work. Aside from this letter revealing that you're insecure and sour (let's face it, you're probably really hungry), you've also aimed your letter at the wrong target. Besides, Kendall is so rich, she probably can't even read.

Leave them alone

Ms. Lauten, how "classy" is it for a GOP staffer to attack the First Children on her Facebook page?

On Wednesday, the National Post printed an open letter from Canadian musician Dave Bidini to Joni Mitchell. In it, he references a recent Maclean's article in which Mitchell said a lot of uncomplimentary things about her fans, and a few too many complimentary things about herself. It's true, she sounded like a cow with a sore udder. Though I agreed with Bidini, I was still getting that uncomfortable open-letter feeling.

But then I thought, "Maybe this was the only appropriate format." How else would Bidini pitch that to the National Post? "I want to write an article about how Joni Mitchell is a piece of poo."? So maybe sometimes open letters are necessary?

That said, I'm still firm on my original stance. I find open letters masturbatory — they're basically talking to themselves — condescending, and self-aggrandizing.

So, here's an open "note" to open letter writers: If you don't know someone well enough to have their mailing address, chances are, they don't know you well enough to care what you think.

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Happy face/Sad face

From reissued birth notices to whack decrees by dictators, Metro weighs in on the news that made headlines this week:

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Ever see adorable Girl Guides selling cookies and panic when you realize you don't have cash? If you live in the U.S., that panic's a thing of the past. The American equivalent, Girl Scout cookies, are going online for the first time ever. Sadly, Canadian guides aren't following suit, but that doesn't mean we can't be happy for our friends south of the border.

ABSURD EDICTS

In crazy dictator news, North Korea has made it illegal to go by Kim Jong-Un — the name of the country's young and eccentric leader. And in China, puns have been banned in an effort to stifle government dissent — or as the government would say, prevent "cultural and linguistic chaos."

GOOD SAMARITAN POLICE IN TENNESSEE

When a Salvation Army shelter in Tennessee turned away a family of five because it said their teen son was too old for the family wing and too young for the men's wing, they faced a frigid night in their car. That's when the local police stepped in. Officers pooled their cash and took them to a hotel for the night. When the hotel clerk insisted on comping the family their room, officers used the cash to buy the family groceries.

METRO PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

FAKE PREGNANCY HEIST

A couple is accused of using a fake pregnancy belly to hide items they stole from an electronics store north of Toronto. The alleged act was caught on camera. Shame for co-opting the miracle of life for greed. But points for creativity, we guess.

PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER TEEN

An Australian couple is getting high-fives from around the world after re-issuing a tear-jerking birth notice for their transgender teen: "In 1995 we announced the arrival of our sprogget, Elizabeth Anne, as a daughter. He informs us that we were mistaken. Oops! Our bad. We would now like to present, our wonderful son — Kai Bogert. Loving you is the easiest thing in the world. Tidy your room." *sniff*

metro

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Onscreen sizzle a real-life fizzle

Casting. Despite strong sparks in their film pairings, Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper insist there is no romance off-screen, just like many popular movie couples

Jennifer Lawrence and Bradley Cooper play married lumber barons in Serena. CONTRIBUTED

Bradley Cooper and Jennifer Lawrence first paired off in Silver Linings Playbook — he was a divorced substitute teacher, jailed for beating his wife's boyfriend half to death; she was a troubled widow who needed his help to win a dance competition — and sparks flew.

Next they shared scenes, but no romance, in American Hustle. And, this weekend, they make it a trifecta with the release of Serena.

Based on the novel by Ron Rash, Cooper and Lawrence play husband and wife lumber barons whose marriage becomes strained after she suffers a miscarriage.

Despite having shared love scenes in movies, Cooper says they have kept the romance onscreen.

"I mean, first of all, I could be her father," he says.

The re-teaming of Cooper and Lawrence in Serena proves that lightning does not always strike thrice.

The "it" couple had chemistry to burn in their previous pairings but fail to set off sparks here. As George and Serena they are ruthless and selfish, which should be the stuff of interesting characters, but the story throws so many hurdles their way that eventually it becomes one big, boring blur.

Some onscreen couples, however, have managed to keep the flame alive through several films.

After a 16-year separation, Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan — the pre-eminent cinema sweethearts of the 1990s — will reunite in the World War II drama Ithaca.

The three rom coms that made them superstars, Joe Versus the Volcano, Sleepless in Seattle and You've Got Mail, were fuelled by the platonic chemistry they share in real life.

"He makes me feel less alone," says Ryan.

Kate Winslet and co-star Leonardo DiCaprio are so close in real life that her children refer to him as Uncle Leo.

As Titanic's star-crossed lovers Jack and Rose, they defined romantic tragedy for a whole generation before recoupling 11 years later in the feel-bad love story Revolutionary Road.

Despite what fans thought, their friendship never turned romantic off-screen. "He always saw me as one of the boys," said Kate.

Despite falling in love over and over again in movies like The Wedding Singer, 50 First Dates and Blended, Drew Barrymore says she and Adam Sandler have exchanged nothing more than a "church kiss."

"That's probably why we've been able to stick together all these years," she says, "because there never was that awkward moment."

The lesson learned is that chemistry off-screen often leads to good results on the screen, but not always. Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe fogged up the lens in Some Like It Hot, but reportedly did not like one another.

"It was like kissing Hitler," said Curtis.

In Review

RICHARD CROUSE

Serena

Director. Susanne Bier

Stars. Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper

Jennifer Lawrence plays the title character, the ambitious wife of George Pemberton (Bradley Cooper), a lumber baron struggling to keep his business afloat in Depression-era North Carolina. A miscarriage drives a wedge between them, a rift exacerbated by the arrival of a son George fathered by another woman. Serena has all the makings of an epic story. Betrayal, jealousy, murder and money swirl around the central characters, but instead of combining to create a compelling narrative, the elements collide in a big bang of schlock. From the broad southern accents to the dirt-smeared Rhys Ifans as Serena's violent lap dog, everything about this movie seems to verge on caricature.

Director's debut an ode to Copenhagen

Interview. Toronto's Mark Raso travelled across the ocean to set his tale of wanderlust

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

As a young filmmaker, it's an arduous endeavour just to make a low-budget movie. But it's a whole other challenge to shoot it in a foreign country.

"We just met fantastic people who were willing to go on this adventure with us," said director Mark Raso about his acclaimed debut feature Copenhagen.

"It wasn't difficult at all — people were welcoming, the city opened itself up to us, the tourism board got involved with the film and we just had a lot of love from the city."

A hit among critics, Copenhagen (which premieres in Toronto/available on VOD elsewhere this Friday) follows an obnoxious college-age tourist (played by HBO's Game of Thrones star Gethin Anthony) who wanders Denmark's titular capital looking to uncover his long lost grandfather. Instead, the irascible Canadian traveller meets a tempting, beautiful stranger that's wise beyond her teenage years.

Quoted

"We shot in the town square on a Thursday night and we were stopping for drunk people every 30 seconds as they were mooning the camera."

Director Mark Raso on shooting his film in Copenhagen

"The interesting thing with our main guy is that in our first draft, he was this nice, lovable guy and the story didn't work," explained the Toronto-born auteur.

"I kept on pushing him and making him meaner and nastier to a point where I think some people just want to turn the movie off after the first 10 minutes. But it seemed to work for the overall story."

Following in the footsteps of Richard Linklater's Before Sunrise trilogy or Sarah Polley's Toronto-centric Take This Waltz, Copenhagen is as much a love letter to the film's European setting as it is a romantic relationship drama. "I really love the youthful energy of the city," said Raso, before noting that Copenhagen's "youthful energy" also led to a couple of dodgy days on set.

"We shot in the town square on a Thursday night and we were stopping for drunk people every 30 seconds as they were mooning the camera," laughed Raso. "But we just waited them out and finished up in the morning."

Gethin Anthony stars in Copenhagen, which opens in Toronto this weekend and VOD. CONTRIBUTED

Behind the scenes

- **His 2011 short film Under may have won a prestigious Student Academy Award, but Raso didn't feel under pressure with his debut feature.** "Under was such a complicated film that (Copenhagen) was a little bit easier in a way," said Raso. "I found around Day 9 or 10 on Copenhagen, I really got into a groove and things became easier and easier."

Michael Murphy puts order to ambiguity

Interview. Canadian filmmaker Terrance Odette says veteran actor brought shape to moral tale that delves deep into faith

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

In the forthcoming film Fall, actor Michael Murphy plays a kindly priest whose life descends into moral chaos after he receives a cryptic letter from a one-time teenage parishioner — a tragic tale that director Terrance Odette admits is somewhat based on a true story.

"(An) incident happened to me when I was 14 and the letter is something that I never did write but it's something I felt I would've," said Odette ahead of the film's Toronto release this weekend (available on VOD the same day).

"That's the inspiration for starting the story, but I wasn't interested in any kind of autobiographical story.

"I was using the incident and reflecting on this man."

In fact, Odette admits he didn't even truly discover the drama's ambiguous narrative until Murphy came onboard.

A long-time admirer of the character actor's 50-year career appearing in everything from Woody Allen's classic Manhattan to recent thriller White House Down starring Channing Tatum, Odette insists the film only found shape with the reluctant collaborator.

"Truthfully, I liked what he wrote, but I thought they'll never make this movie," explained Murphy.

"I thought this is good, but I've spent my career doing movies about guys who are challenged morally, (but Odette) brought a great gift of a starring role in the kind of picture I want to make because it's cinematic acting."

It's also not the first movie Odette has written with deep questions surrounding faith.

In 2002, Odette earned attention for Saint Monica — a modest festival hit about a young girl obsessed with angels and her Roman Catholic upbringing.

"I'm just harvesting from my own experience and what interests me," explained the Hamilton, Ont.-based filmmaker of his interest in religion.

"It's part of me.

"I'm a person who is fascinated by philosophy; fascinated by why and how people think spiritually.

"It's simply where I mine from."

Michael Murphy plays a priest coping with moral chaos in Fall. CONTRIBUTED

More on Fall

- **Murphy on his initial hesitation.** "I had mixed feelings about it. First of all, I'm old and cynical now," said Murphy. "(And) I thought, do I really want to do a picture that is ostensibly about child molestation?"
- **Murphy on Fall's place in cinema.** "To me, (Fall is) a flashback to the art films we used to watch when I was at college," said 76-year-old Murphy. "Not that this is hard to understand — but it's ambiguous as hell."

The Oscar race this year is already something of a head-scratcher, and right at the centre of it is a surprisingly light field of best actress contenders. Despite a clear front-runner — Julianne Moore for her devastating performance in Still Alice — the category is looking a bit thin. Here's a look at the contenders:

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

A look at a light year of best actresses

The shoo-in

Julianne Moore, Still Alice

Seriously, Moore's toughest acting job now is continuing to be surprised each time she nabs a trophy between now and February 22. She's basically this year's McConaughey.

The sure-thing nominations

Rosamund Pike, Gone Girl

People might have come for a glimpse at Ben Affleck's junk, but they stayed for Pike's surprising, chilly performance.

Reese Witherspoon, Wild

Previous winner Witherspoon turns in a solidly harrowing performance in Wild, but it falls just short of the mark.

Felicity Jones, The Theory of Everything

It took some time for critics to see past the brilliance of her co-star — and another shoo-in nominee — Eddie Redmayne, but Jones should be recognized as well for her stellar work as Stephen Hawking's first wife, Jane.

The strong possibilities

Hillary Swank, The Homesman

Two-time Oscar winner Swank has been looking for that comeback vehicle to bring her a third trophy for a while, and this one came close, but maybe voters just weren't in the mood for a gritty frontier drama this year.

Jennifer Aniston, Cake

While some have dismissed Aniston's turn in this indie as little more than makeup-free stunt-casting, she shows some impressive dramatic chops — which anyone who's seen The Good Girl or Friends with Money already knew.

Might we also recommend

Scarlett Johansson, Under the Skin

If the Academy wanted to play things a little riskier, it could recognize the Avengers star's transformative — and nearly silent — work in Jonathan Glazer's hypnotic and eerie science-fiction thriller.

Emily Blunt, Into the Woods

It might be tough to single out anyone in this sprawling ensemble as a "lead," but Blunt comes closest as the Baker's Wife. And she's a standout in that big cast, holding her own against Meryl Streep, even.

Now in theatres

Sci-Fi & Adventure

Interstellar

Director. Christopher Nolan

Stars. Matthew McConaughey, Anne Hathaway, Jessica Chastain

With our time on Earth coming to an end, a team of explorers undertakes the most important mission in human history; traveling beyond this galaxy to discover whether mankind has a future among the stars.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 74% **Audience:** 99%

Comedy

Corner Gas: The Movie

Director. David Storey

Stars. Brent Butt, Gabrielle Miller

As the town of Dog River goes bankrupt, the residents of the town must pack up and move out. However, our favourite citizens make one last-ditch effort to save Dog River.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** 100%

Drama

Force Majeure

Director. Ruben Östlund

Stars. Johannes Bah Kuhnke, Lisa Loven Kongsli

A critical favourite and word-of-mouth sensation at this year's Cannes Festival, where it took the Jury Prize in Un Certain Regard, this wickedly funny and precisely observed psychodrama tells the story of a model Swedish family on a skiing holiday in the French Alps.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 96% **Audience:** 80%

Captain Martin Crieff, Cabin Pressure

As a young pilot with more passion than skill for flying, Cumberbatch is the earnest straight man of the BBC radio comedy Cabin Pressure, which will arrive at the end of its alphabetical journey with a Christmas special this month. He plays the overeager, rule-happy heart of a small private charter firm of one jet and a supporting cast who love him almost as much as they love to make fun of him.

5

times Benedict Cumberbatch did not play an arrogant, but flawed genius

David, Wreckers

Trees are never the only thing that's shady in the English countryside. The idea that those who go to the city are escaping something is alive and well in Wreckers, where a young couple return to David's childhood home to start building a life together. But as soon as they arrive, Cumberbatch becomes less devoted husband and more a product of the abuse and incest that permeate the town — and his relationship with his brother.

Khan, Star Trek Into Darkness

Although Star Trek Into Darkness began as a seemingly straight-up story of a space-age terrorist out to do as much damage to Starfleet as he can, Cumberbatch's villain Khan turned out to have a much more personal agenda when it was revealed that he was merely trying to free his crew, who had been imprisoned by a Starfleet officer. Cumberbatch goes from fury to tears as Khan is revealed to have been manipulated into killing in the name of keeping the peace.

The Creature, Frankenstein

Over the course of Danny Boyle's stage adaptation of Frankenstein, Cumberbatch's Creature struggles with being made of human parts but knowing little of what it means to be one. The Creature rejoices and struggles with, in equal measure, himself, the world and his creator, veering between love and fear, leading him to the most human act of all: revenge.

Christopher Tietjens, Parade's End

Cumberbatch has described his character in this First World War drama as the one he's most attached to. Christopher Tietjens is a simple man who values tradition and lives life by the rules, in his duty as a soldier and as a husband to a manipulative Rebecca Hall (The Prestige). It's a philosophy that makes his encounter with a suffragette and all that a new life with her would entail fraught with anticipation. This one made more than a few stiff upper lips quiver, and earned Cumberbatch an Emmy nod.

WWII hero saved millions, but few know his name

The Imitation Game. Alan Turing invented a computer that cracked Nazi codes, but he was later arrested and castrated for being gay

ANNE BRODIE
scene@metronews.ca

Mathematician, statistician and early computer scientist Alan Turing was a British war hero, but no one knew until years later because no one was supposed to know.

Under the cloak of secrecy at Bletchley Hall, the U.K.'s cypher and spy school, he invented the electromagnetic machine. It was an early computer that broke the German Enigma code and intercepted military messages, assuring an Allied victory.

When Turing's work was finally revealed, Sir Winston Churchill called it "the greatest single contribution to the Allied victory over the Nazis."

Turing may have saved millions of lives and shortened the war by two to four years, but he was arrested for being gay, a crime in the U.K. until 1967, and was forced into chemical castration. It led to his early death in 1952.

Benedict Cumberbatch plays the tragic hero in Morten Tyldum's The Imitation Game, with Matthew Goode and Allen Leech as his Bletchley Park colleagues. They hope to bring Turing's heroism to a new generation.

"There are huge amounts of people that don't know about him," says Cumberbatch. "And (they are) even more important than those who do — people who appreciate what he achieved and stood for, both as a gay icon and as a genius who basically was at the forefront of the birth of the computer age and a war hero.

"The number of people who don't know about him, or only have a scant idea of him, is in extraordinary proportion to his achievements and what he endured in his life. So my kind of weight and responsibility tends towards wanting this to get to as broad an audience as possible."

Benedict Cumberbatch plays Alan Turing in The Imitation Game. CONTRIBUTED

Turing is portrayed as being a loner and difficult to work with, perhaps for fear of being outed. Goode and Leech found that their real life counterparts, Hugh Alexander and John Cairncross, were wary of him.

"He's not the easiest man to like, which is something I liked about Benedict's acting choices," says Goode.

Cumberbatch, Goode and Leech agree Turing was dealt an unfair hand but feel the film is a celebration of his life and work.

"Not just the Enigma Code, but about this man and the team around him — this incredible man who has never been given the proper accolades he deserves," says Leech.

"It's a celebration of why different is good, why different can win a World War," Goode adds.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 5 TO THURS., DEC. 11 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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The Ultimate Wave Tahiti 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 12-2:30 Fri-Thu 12:35-3:05

Coliseum Ottawa
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Action Jackson (STC) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:50-7:10-10:15 Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-10:15
Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50 Thu 1:10
Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 3:40-6:20-9:10
Corner Gas: The Movie (STC) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 2-4:40-7:20-10 Sat-Tue 4:40-7:20-10 Wed 4:40-10:30 Thu 1:15-4:40-7:20-10
Exhibition on Screen: Matisse (STC) Thu 7:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 9:30
Fury (14A) Fri-Thu 9:40
Gone Girl (14A) Fri 2:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 2:40-6:30-9:50 Tue-Wed 6:30-9:50 Thu 1:25-6:30-9:50
Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri-Sun 1:20-2:20-4-5-6:40-7:40-9:30-10:20 Mon-Wed 4-5-6:40-7:40-9:30-10:20 Thu 1:30-4-5-6:40-7:40-9:50-10:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon-Tue 4-7-10 Wed 4-7-7:30-10 Thu 4-7-10 Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Mon-Tue 4:30-7:30-10:30 Wed 3:40 Thu 1:30-4:30-7:30-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:20-6:10-9:50 Sat 6:10-9:50 Sun 2:20-6:10-9:50 Mon-Wed 6:10-9:50 Thu 1:15-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: Carmen Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Nozze Di Figaro - Encore (STC) Sat 12
National Theatre Live: John (STC) Wed 7
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 1:55-4:20-6:45-9:05 Mon-Wed 4:20-6:45-9:05 Thu 1:20-4:20-6:45 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:45-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:45-10:05
St. Vincent (14A) Fri 1:10-4:10-6:50 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:10 Mon-Tue 4:10-6:50 Wed 4:10 Thu 1:35-4:10

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St.

The Book of Life (G) Sat 1-3:15 Sun 1:45
Horns (14A) Fri 9:45 Sat 9:15 Sun 9:45 Mon-Tue 9
Interstellar (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat 6 Sun 6:30 Mon-Tue 3 Wed-Thu 6:15
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri 4 Mon-Tue 6:30 Wed-Thu 3:45-9:30
The Polar Express (G) Sat 10
White Christmas (PG) Sun 4

Ottawa Family Cinema
710 Broadview Ave.

No Films Showing Today (STC) Sun-Thu

Rainbow Cinemas
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd.

The Book of Life (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:20-2:30-4:40-6:50-9
The Boxtrolls (G) Fri-Thu 10:30-4:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Sat 11
Fury (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-6:30
The Good Lie (14A) Fri-Thu 3:40-9:05
Guardians of the Galaxy (PG) Fri-Thu 9:55-2:20-7
John Wick (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-4:50-9:25
The Judge (14A) Fri-Wed 1:10-7:10 Thu 1:10 Thu 1:10
The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Sat 10:20-1-6:40 Sun-Mon 1 Tue 10:20-1-6:40 Wed 1 Thu 10:20-1-6:40 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:20-9:40 Open Captioned Wed 10:20-9:40
The Skeleton Twins (14A) Fri 10:40-4:10-9:15 Sat 4:10-9:15 Sun-Thu 10:40-4:10-9:15

South Keys
2214 Bank St.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:50-1:35
Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri-Thu 4:25-7:05-10
Bolshoi Ballet: La Bayadere (STC) Sun 12:55
A Christmas Story (PG) Sat 11
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sat 11:10-1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50 Sun 4:35-7:15-9:50 Mon-Thu 11:10-1:50-4:35-7:15-9:50
Exhibition on Screen: Matisse (STC) Thu 7:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 9
Gone Girl (14A) Fri 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40 Sat 6:30-9:40 Sun-Tue 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40 Wed 12:10-3:20-9:40 Thu 12:10-3:20-6:30-9:40
Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri-Wed 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-9:10-10:15 Thu 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:35-10:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:20-4:10-7-10:05 Fri-Thu 12:25-3:25-6:25-9:25
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Thu 10:35-2:05-6-9:35
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Nozze Di Figaro - Encore (STC) Sat 12
National Theatre Live: John (STC) Wed 7
Nightcrawler (14A) Fri-Thu 4:45-10:10
Past Tense (PG) Fri 11:15-1:55-4:30-7:10-9:55 Sat 1:55-4:30-7:10-9:55 Sun-Thu 11:15-1:55-4:30-7:10-9:55
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Thu 11:20-1:45-4:05-6:35
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:30-4:55-7:20-9:45
St. Vincent (14A) Fri-Wed 11:45-2:15-7:30 Thu 11:45-2:15
Women Who Flirt (PG) Fri-Thu 12-2:20-4:40-6:50-9:15

Canadian Museum of civilization
100 rue Laurier

D-Day: Normandy 1944 3D (STC) Sat 8 Sun 12-5 Mon 2 Tue-Wed 3-7 Thu 10-4-8
Les Dauphins (STC) Tue 1
Galapagos 3D (STC) Fri 3 Sat 3-7 Sun 11-2-7 Mon 12 Tue-Wed 11-2-6 Thu 11-3-5-7 Fri 11-1 Sat-Sun 4 Mon 1 Tue 4 Wed-Thu 1
Jour-J Normandie 1944 3D (STC) Sat 5 Sun 6 Wed 5 Thu 6
Pandas: The Journey Home 3D (STC) Fri 12-2 Sat 6 Sun 3 Mon 11 Tue 5 Wed 12 Thu 12-2 Fri 4 Sun 1 Tue 10 Wed 4
Rocky Mountain Express (STC) Tue 12

Cinéma des Galeries d'Aylmer
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne

Dumb and Dumber To (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:10-6:40-9:10 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:10-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10
Horrible Bosses 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:30
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:30 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:30-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:30
Les pingouins de Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 1-7-9:20 Mon 7 Tue 1-7-9:20 Wed-Thu 7-9:20
Les pingouins de Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:20 Tue 3:20

Gatineau 9
120 boul. de l'HÙpital

La cloche et l'idiot 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:20 Mon 6:50-9:20 Tue 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:20
Hunger Games : la rÈvolte, partie 1 (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-1:20-3:15-4-7-8-9:40 Mon 7-8-9:40 Tue 12:30-1:20-3:15-4-7-8-9:40 Wed-Thu 7-8-9:40
Interstellaire (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-4:30-8 Mon 8 Tue 1:05-4:30-8 Wed 8
L'Exode: Dieux et rois (STC) Thu 8
MÉchants patrons 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 1:25-3:50-7:15-9:45 Mon 7:15-9:45 Tue 1:25-3:50-7:15-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:45
Les nouveaux hÈros (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-7:05 Mon 7:05 Tue 12:40-7:05 Wed-Thu 7:05
Les nouveaux hÈros 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:10-9:40 Mon 9:40 Tue 3:10-9:40 Wed-Thu 9:40
Les pingouins de Madagascar (G) Fri 11-3:30 Sat-Sun 3:30 Tue 3:30
Les pingouins de Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1-7:20-9:30 Mon 7:20-9:30 Tue 1-7:20-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:30
La thÉorie de l'univers (G) Fri-Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:45 Mon 7:10-9:45 Tue 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:45
Les yeux jaunes des crocodiles (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:25-6:45-9:25 Mon 6:45-9:25 Tue 12:45-3:25-6:45-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:45-9:25

StarCitÉ Hull
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:20 Sat 10:50-1:20 Sun 1:20 Tue 1:20
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4-6:50-9:30 Mon 7-9:30 Tue 4-6:50-9:30 Wed 7-9:30 Thu 2:25-7-9:30
A Christmas Story (STC) Sat 11
La cloche et l'idiot 2 (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:20 Mon 7:25-10 Tue 12:20-2:45-5:15-7:45-10:20 Wed 7:25-10 Thu 2:10-7:25-10 Thu 1:30
Dumb and Dumber To (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Mon 7:25-10 Tue 12:30-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Wed 7:25-10 Thu 2:15-7:25-10
Exhibition on Screen: Matisse (STC) Thu 7:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (STC) No Passes Thu 9:30
Gone Girl (13+) Fri 12:55-4-7-10:15 Sat 4-7-10:15 Sun 12:55-4-7-10:15 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 12:55-4-7-10:15 Wed 7-9:40 Thu 1:40-7-9:40
Horrible Bosses 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 12:30-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Mon 7:30-10 Tue 12:30-3-5:35-8:10-10:45 Wed 7:30-10 Thu 2:30-7:30-10
Hunger Games : la rÈvolte, partie 1 (G) Fri 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:20-10:30 Sat 10:50-12:30-1:30-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:20-10:30 Sun 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:20-10:30 Mon 6:55-7:05-9:45-10:05 Tue 12:30-1:30-3:20-4:30-6:20-7:30-9:20-10:30 Wed 6:55-7:05-9:45-10:05 Thu 2:05-6:55-7:05-9:45-10:05
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Mon 6:50-10 Tue 12:50-3:50-6:50-9:50 Wed 6:50-10 Thu 10-10:15 Fri 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Sat 11:05-1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Sun 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Mon 7:15-10:15 Tue 1:45-4:45-7:45-10:45 Wed 7:15-10:15 Thu 2-6:45
Interstellar (G) Fri-Sun 2:50-6:25-10 Mon 8:45 Tue 2:50-6:25-10 Wed 8:45 Thu 1:20-8:45
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Nozze Di Figaro - Encore (STC) Sat 12
MÉchants patrons 2 (13+) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:55-5:30-8-10:35 Mon 7:35-10:10 Tue 12:20-2:55-5:30-8-10:35 Wed 7:35-10:10 Thu 1:55-7:35-10:10
Les nouveaux hÈros (G) Fri 12:25 Sat 11:05 Sun 12:25 Tue 12:25
Les nouveaux hÈros 3D (G) Fri 1:20-4:20-7-9:40 Sat 1:30-4:20-7-9:40 Sun 1:20-4:20-7-9:40 Mon 7-9:40 Tue 1:20-4:20-7-9:40 Wed 7-9:40 Thu 1:45-7-9:40
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 12:45 Sat 11:15-12:45 Sun 12:45 Tue 12:45
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Mon 7:45-10:05 Tue 3:05-5:25-7:45-10:05 Wed 7:45-10:05 Thu 2:20-7:45-10:05
Les pingouins de Madagascar (G) Fri 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 Sat 1:15-5:55-8:15-10:35 Sun 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 Mon 7:15-9:35 Tue 1:15-3:35-5:55-8:15-10:35 Wed 7:15-9:35 Thu 7:15
Les pingouins de Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Sat 10:55-1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Sun 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Mon 7:40-10 Tue 1-3:20-5:40-8-10:20 Wed 7:40-10 Thu 1:35-7:40-10
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15 Mon 7:20-10:05 Tue 1:30-4:25-7:20-10:15 Wed-Thu 7:20-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:15
Une histoire de NoÎl (STC) Sat 11

Barrhaven Cinemas
131 Riocan Dr.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Sat-Sun 1:30 Thu 1:10
Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 4:20-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:20
A Christmas Story (PG) Sat 11
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 7:30-10:05 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:50-7:30-10:05 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:40 Thu 1:20-4:50-7:40
Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri 7:40-10:20 Sat 11:40-2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Sun 2:20-5-7:40-10:20 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:50
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 6:35-7:10-9:35-10:10 Sat-Sun 12:35-1:10-3:35-4:10-6:35-7:10-9:35-10:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-5-7:30-8 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Interstellar (PG) Fri 6:10-9:45 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:30-8
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Sat-Sun 12:15 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 7:30-9:55 Sat-Sun 2:40-5:05-7:30-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:10-7:45

SilverCity, 2385 City Park Dr.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Thu 1:55
Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri 4:40-7:25-10:10 Sat 11:10-4:40-7:25-10:10 Sun-Thu 4:40-7:25-10:10
Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Thu 1-4-6:55-9:50
Bolshoi Ballet: La Bayadere (STC) Sun 12:55
A Christmas Story (PG) Sat 11
Citizenfour (PG) Fri 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25 Sat 4:35-7:30-10:25 Sun-Thu 1:40-4:35-7:30-10:25
Corner Gas: The Movie (STC) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7
Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sat 11:20-2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20 Sun-Thu 2:05-4:50-7:35-10:20
Exhibition on Screen: Matisse (STC) Thu 7:30
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) No Passes Thu 10:15
Gone Girl (14A) Fri 3:15-6:35-9:55 Sat 11:50-3:15-6:35-9:55 Sun-Thu 3:15-6:35-9:55
Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri 1:05-2:40-3:50-5:20-6:30-8-9:10-10:40 Sat-Sun 12-1:05-2:40-3:50-5:20-6:30-8-9:10-10:40 Mon-Thu 1:05-2:40-3:50-5:20-6:30-8-9:10-10:40
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 1:15-1:45-3:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Sat-Sun 12:15-1:15-3:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Mon 1:15-1:45-3-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-10:15-10:45 Tue 1:15-1:45-3:45-4:15-4:45-6:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Wed 1:15-1:45-3:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:15-10:45 Thu 1:15-1:45-3:45-4:15-4:45-7:15-7:45-9:45-10:45
Interstellar (PG) Fri 2:40-6:20-10 Sat 11:05-2:40-6:20-10 Sun-Thu 2:40-6:20-10
Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri 3:30-7-10:30 Sat-Sun 11:55-3:30-7-10:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Carmen Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Le Nozze Di Figaro - Encore (STC) Sat 12
National Theatre Live: John (STC) Wed 7
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 2-4:25-6:50-9:15 Sat 11:35-2-4:25-6:50-9:15 Sun-Thu 2-4:25-6:50-9:15
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:20-5:45-8:10-10:35
Serena (14A) Fri 2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Sat 11:40-2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Sun-Thu 2:25-5:10-7:55-10:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Theory of Everything (PG) Fri-Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05 Wed 4:10-7:10-10:05 Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:05 Star & Strollers Screening 8

Landmark Theatres Orleans 6 Cinemas, 3752 Innes Rd.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri 2:55-6:20 Sat-Sun 10:40-2:55-6:20 Mon 6:50 Tue 2:55-6:10 Thu 6:50

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SilverCity, 2385 City Park Dr.

Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-9:05 Mon 3:40-9:30 Tue 12:10-9:05 Wed 3:40-6:50-9:30 Thu 3:50-9:30

Corner Gas: The Movie (STC) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 1-7

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:05-6:30-9:15 Mon 3:30-6:10-9 Tue 12:30-3:05-6:30-9:15 Wed 3:30-6:10-9 Thu 3:30-6:20-9:10

Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Thu 8

Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri-Sun 12:20-1:30-3:25-4:05-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:10 Mon 3:45-4:10-6:20-7:9:15-10 Tue 12:20-1:30-3:25-4:05-6:50-7:20-9:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 3:45-4:10-6:20-7-9:15-10

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 12:40-3:55-7:10-9:45-10 Sat-Sun 10:30-12:40-3:55-7:10-9:45-10 Mon 4-7:10-9:30-10 Tue 12:40-12:40-3:55-6:20-7:10-9:45-10 Wed 4-6:30-7:10-9:30-10 Thu 4-7:10-10 Fri-Sun 12-3:15-6:40-9:30 Mon 3:30-6:40-9:45 Tue 12-3:15-6:40-9:30 Wed 3:30-6:40-9:40 Thu 3:30

Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-6:10 Mon 3:30-7:30 Tue 1:25-6:10 Wed-Thu 3:30-7:30

Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 12-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Sat 10:50-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Sun 10:50-12-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Mon 3:30-7:10-9:55 Tue 12-2:45-5:10-7:30-9:50 Wed 3:30-7:10-9:55 Thu 3:50-7:10-9:55

Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1:15-3:35-7-9:20 Mon 4-6:30-9 Tue 1:15-3:35-7-9:20 Wed 4-6:30-9 Thu 3:40

Les pingouins de Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 3:45 Mon 4:10 Tue 3:45 Wed-Thu 4:10

The Royal Ballet - Manon (STC) Sat 11

Royal Opera House: I Due Foscari (STC) Mon 6:30

Top Five (18A) Thu 8:30

Landmark Cinemas 24 Kanata & IMAX, 801 Kanata Ave.

Big Hero 6 (PG) Fri-Sun 10:35-1:20-4-6:45-9:45 Mon 4-6:45-9:45 Tue 1:20-4-6:45-9:45 Wed-Thu 4-6:45-9:45

Big Hero 6 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Mon 4:15-7:15-10:15 Tue 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:15-10:15

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20 Mon 4:30-7:20-10:20 Tue 1:30-4:30-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:20-10:20

Chaar Sahibzaade 3D (PG) Fri 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:50 Sat 3:35-6:40-9:50 Sun 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:50 Mon 3:35 Tue 12:30-3:35-6:40-9:50 Wed 3:35-6:40-9:50 Thu 3:35-6:40

Corner Gas: The Movie (STC) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10

Dumb and Dumber To (PG) Fri-Sun 11:20-2:20-5:05-7:50-10:30 Mon 5:05-7:50-10:30 Tue 2:20-5:05-7:50-10:30 Wed-Thu 5:05-7:50-10:30

The Equalizer (18A) Fri-Thu 6:20-9:40

Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (PG) Thu 9

Fury (14A) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:30 Mon 6:20-9:30 Tue 3:20-6:20-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:20-9:30

Gone Girl (14A) Fri-Sun 11:35-3:05-6:25-9:50 Mon 6:25-9:50 Tue 3:05-6:25-9:50 Wed 6:25-9:50 Thu 9:50 Thu 6:25

Horrible Bosses 2 (18A) Fri 10:50-12:25-1:35-3:15-4:35-6-7:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 10:50-12:25-1:35-3:15-4:35-6-7:30-8:50-10:15 Mon 4:35-6-7:30-8:50-10:15 Tue 1:35-3:15-4:35-6-7:30-8:50-10:15 Wed-Thu 4:35-6-7:30-8:50-10:15 Fri 8:50

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri 11-12:45-2:35-4-5:50-8:15-9:05 Sat-Sun 10:30-11-11:50-12:45-1:45-2:35-3:20-4-5-5:50-6:35-7:15-8:15-9:05-9:50-10:15 Mon 3:20-4-5-5:50-6:35-7:15-8:15-9:05-9:50-10:15 Tue 12:45-1:45-2:35-3:20-4-5-5:50-6:35-7:15-8:15-9:05-9:50-10:15 Wed 5:50-9:05 Thu 3:20-4-5-5:50-6:35-7:15-8:15-9:50-10:15 Fri 10:30-11:50-1:45-3:20-5-6:35-7:15-9:50-10:15 Wed 3:20-4-5-6:35-7:15-8:15-9:50-10:15

Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 11:35-12:05-3:15-3:45-7:15-7:45 Mon 3:45-7:15-7:45 Tue 3:15-3:45-7:15-7:45 Wed-Thu 3:45-7:15-7:45

Interstellar: The IMAX Experience (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-4:30-8:15 Mon 4:30-8:15 Tue 12:35-4:30-8:15 Wed 4:30 Thu 4:30-8:15 Wed 8:15

John Wick (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30 Mon 3:30 Tue 12:40-3:30 Wed-Thu 3:30

The Judge (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:30 Mon-Thu 4:55-8:15 Tue 1:35

The Maze Runner (PG) Fri-Thu 6:55-9:40

Meet the Mormons (G) Fri-Sun 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20 Mon 4:20-6:50-9:20 Tue 1:50-4:20-6:50-9:20 Wed 4:20-6:50-9:20 Thu 4:20-6:50 Thu 9:20

Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 10:45-1:30-4-6:35-9:10 Mon 6:35-9:10 Tue 1:30-4-6:35-9:10 Wed-Thu 4-6:35-9:10 Mon 4

Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 10 Sat-Sun 11:45-2:30-5-7:40-10 Mon 5-7:40-10 Tue 2:30-5-7:40-10 Wed-Thu 5-7:40-10 Fri 11:45-2:30-5-7:40

The Royal Ballet - Manon (STC) Sat 11

Royal Opera House: I Due Foscari (STC) Mon 6:30

St. Vincent (14A) Fri-Sun 2:15-4:45-7:20-9:55 Mon 4:45-7:20-9:55 Tue 2:15-4:45-7:20-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:20-9:55

The Theory of Everything (PG) Fri 12:30-3:40-7:10 Sat 3:40-7-10 Sun 12:30-3:40-7-10 Mon 3:40-7-10 Tue 12:30-3:40-7-10 Wed-Thu 3:40-7-10 Sat 12:30

Top Five (18A) Thu 10

Bonding time with the Spectre set

British actress Naomi Harris, left, French actress Lea Seydoux, British actor Daniel Craig, Italian actress Monica Bellucci and Austrian actor Christoph Waltz will star in the next James Bond film Spectre, in a new outing promising a strong dose of 007 nostalgia. The movie — titled after a global criminal organization featuring in the early Bond films — will be shot in Mexico City, Rome and Tangiers and will also see Britain's famous spy returning to the ski slopes, in Austria, director Sam Mendes said on Thursday at Pinewood Studios. AFP

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Miley Cyrus INSTAGRAM

Miami has itself a merry little Cyrus as Miley brings the silver and bold

What would the holidays be without a little tinsel? Or a lot, for that matter.

While down in Miami for Art Basel, Miley Cyrus decked her halls with a silver tinsel wig, sheer silver tights and glittery mirror ball pasties — oh, and a silver over-the-shoulder thong, which I didn't know was actually a thing.

She performed at the annual event's opening night party, telling the crowd, "You thought this was a respected place where you could escape me?" 'Tis the season, y'all.

Ho! Ho! Hoax! Axl Rose may be over 50 but he ain't dead yet

Good news for Guns N' Roses fans! The reports of singer Axl Rose's death have been greatly exaggerated.

A fake MSNBC report — much like the recent hoax claiming Macaulay Culkin had perished — went out recently claiming that Rose, 52, had been found dead in his West Hollywood home.

But while totally bogus, the hoax did raise at least one question for the man himself: "If I'm dead do I still have to pay taxes?" he tweeted.

Personally, I'm still reeling from the fact that Axl Rose is 52 now.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Rachel beams Ray of sunshine at Ms. Goop and MaStew

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

In the ongoing conflict between home living guru Martha Stewart and self-styled upstart Gwyneth Paltrow, Rachael Ray has decided to be the Switzerland.

During a visit to Watch What Happens Live, Ray was pressed to take a side in the dispute and chose to remain neutral.

"I'm on team food. I think everybody who likes to eat has a different take on it and everybody's opinion should be respected," she tells Andy Cohen.

"I love Gwyneth Paltrow. I think that she is very devoted to everything she puts her mind to, and I think she is really a brilliant cookbook author. She writes in many different disciplines."

And Stewart?

"I have to have nothing but respect for Martha Stewart. She is a forerunner. I wouldn't have a job without the people who came before me ... Martha Stewart created an avenue for women who work in lifestyle television — period. You have to have respect for all people's opinions ... in my opinion."

Loni Anderson GETTY IMAGES

The way to Burt's art is through ex Loni's auction

If Burt Reynolds can auction off a whole bunch of personal junk, then so can ex-wife Loni Anderson.

The former WKRP in Cincinnati star is looking to unload nearly 65 items she received from Reynolds over the years, including a nearly-nude portrait of Anderson.

"He loved art, so he would go pick out a favorite artist and then he would commission them to do a portrait of me," Anderson says. "So pretty soon, there are a lot of portraits of me."

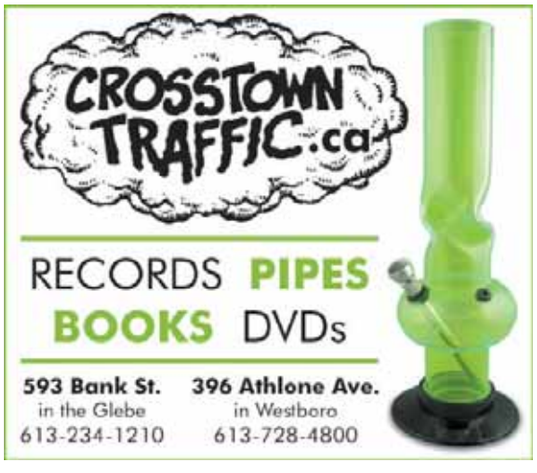
So, um, any takers?

Twitter

@WhitneyCummings
I just ate airport salmon in case anyone wants to propose to me

@Harry_Styles
You can tell far too much about a person by which monopoly piece they play as.

@Courtney
I feel like your auntie... Stop that s--- @Harry_Styles



Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Turn up the heat

This recipe serves four. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Shrimp and Coconut Milk Thai Soup.

Although this recipe requires a long list of ingredients, it comes together in a snap

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

As most of the country heads toward a deep freeze (or at least colder weather), wanderlust is inevitable.

What's the best solution — short of jumping on a flight to somewhere warm?

Exotic flavours inspired by lands far, far away with key ingredients that include coconut, curry and plenty of delicious heat.

This Shrimp and Coconut Milk Thai Soup is a perfect example of such a warming and exotic meal.

Don't be intimidated by the list of ingredients.

This soup is so quick to prepare that it's worth serving as a meal-in-a-bowl.

1. In a large saucepan, brown the shiitake mushrooms and jalapeno pepper (or pepper sauce) in the oil. Season with salt and pepper. Add the garlic, fresh ginger, tomato paste and curry powder, paprika and cinnamon, and sauté for 1 to 2 minutes.

2. Add the coconut milk, chicken broth, snow peas (or broccoli), lime zest and lime juice. Bring to a boil and simmer gently for about 3 minutes or until the peas are al dente.

3. Add the shrimp and bring to a boil. Continue cooking for about 2 minutes or until the shrimp are cooked. Adjust the seasoning. When ready to serve, garnish with green onions. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED THIS SEPTEMBER!**

Ingredients

- 8 shiitake mushrooms, sliced
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and finely chopped, or hot pepper sauce, to taste
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp fresh ginger, chopped
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) tomato paste
- 1 tbsp curry powder
- 2 tsp ground paprika
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 2 cans (14 oz/398 ml) coconut milk
- 2 cups (500 ml) chicken broth
- 2 cups snow peas, cut lengthwise into three strips or broccoli florets
- Grated zest of 2 limes
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) shelled raw shrimp, with or without the tail
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced diagonally

Liquid Assets

Warm up wine glasses

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I'm not sure where the year went, but here we are in chilly December dreaming of summer and a wine to warm up our evenings. Port tops my list.

The last to comply, Canadian wineries have finally agreed to leave its name off their labels, so the term port will only appear on bottles from its true homeland of Portugal.

Winemakers in Canada have chosen the term "tawny" to identify their fortified wines that pay homage to the real stuff.

In the wine world, port is an odd duck. Best served with only a slight chill, its boozy bouquet and muscular punch of berry doesn't play well with novice palates.

Pigeonholed as an after dinner sipper, its stand alone sensibility works brilliantly with blue and cheddar cheeses, almonds, walnuts, dried fruit and chocolate.

Warre's Otima 10 Year Old Port (500 ml, $22.90 - $27.99) is a 21st-century take on a true tawny. Bright and fruity, with a relaxed flavour flow, it's a tasty way to embrace winter. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

For a taste of the exotic, just add curry and coconut milk

1. In skillet over high heat, sauté the onion and bell pepper in oil until soft and golden brown. Add the chicken, garlic and spices and sauté for about 2 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

2. Add the coconut milk and honey. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce the heat and simmer gently until the chicken is cooked through, about 8 minutes. Adjust the seasoning.

3. Serve with rice. **RICARDO**

Ingredients

- 1 large onion, cut into 10 wedges
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and cut into squares
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) skinless, boneless chicken breast, cut into cubes
- 2 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 2 tsp curry powder
- 1/2 tsp ground turmeric
- Salt and pepper
- 1 can (14 oz/398 ml) coconut milk
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey

This recipe makes four servings. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Mix up your wine and spirits this season

The gift of booze.
Broaden your palate and try any of these for some holiday cheer

PETER ROCKWELL
For Metro

While it may be the most wonderful time of year to get innovative with your liquid gift-giving, it's likely many of you reach for the same old bottle when spreading holiday cheer. Wine and spirit fans come in all shapes, sizes and levels of engagement, so here are some unique ideas to make their season merry.

For the wine newbie
If you know someone who's treading water when it comes to expanding their vinous horizons, these wines will open their minds and palates.

Apothic 2012 Red (California, $15.95*): The wine that started the sweet red phenomenon still leads the pack with its cocktail-like balance of sugar and ripe berry sweetness.

The Grinder 2012 Pinotage (South Africa, $13.95): No baristas were harmed in the making of this wine. This wild berry red gets its fusion of mocha, java, and chocolate from oak aging.

Montalto 2013 Pinot Grigio (Italy, $8.95): Fun to say and easy to drink; pinot grigio is the "it" white grape of the 21st century. Soft, fruity and with crisp acidity, this Sicilian delivers as much flavour as a version at twice the price.

Jacob's Creek 2013 Moscato (Australia, $11.45): Light in alcohol, but big in round, tropical flavours makes this the perfect entry-level white.

For the wine enthusiast
Have someone on your list who knows their way around a wine glass? These wines will pop their cork.

Monte Antico 2009 Toscano IGT (Italy, $15.95): A baby Super Tuscan made from sangiovese, merlot and cabernet sauvignon. She's loaded with plum, black cherry and dark anise with an astonishing balance of tannins and acid.

Ringbolt 2012 Cabernet Sauvignon (Australia, $19.85): Down Under is no slouch when it comes to cabernet. Calling Western Australia's Margaret River home, Ringbolt's one meaty, mouthful of black fruit.

Caymus 2011 Conundrum White (California, $24.95): The original New World white blend combines over five different grapes to reach its goal of peach, melon, citrus and pepper spice.

La Fiole du Pape Châteauneuf-du-Pape (France, $39.95): A crooked bottle covered in a dirty glaze has made this red the most recognized wine in the Rhône Valley. A mix of multiple vintages, its textured, earthy mouth-feel is seductively accessible.

For the whisky lover
Scotland doesn't own the rights to great whisky and these tasty versions think outside the bottle.

Writer's Tears Pot Still Irish Whiskey (Ireland, $50.75): The champagne of Irish whiskies and a style favoured by that country's prolific writing community who love its old-school expression of honey, fruit and flowers.

Glen Breton Rare Canadian Whisky (Nova Scotia, $79.80): The lightly-malted flavour of Canada's only single malt whisky will appeal to scotch nerds and all brown spirit enthusiasts.

Canadian Club Chairman's Select 100% Rye (Canada, $27.25): We're known for rye. If you know a Mad Men fan, this thick, rich rye has their name on it.

For the sparkling wine fan
Add some sparkle to their season with a gift that's fun and fizzy.

Freixenet Cordon Negro Brut Cava (Spain, $13.95): Made like champagne, this Spaniard pushes all the bubbly buttons and makes a solid foundation for your Christmas morning mimosa.

Fresita (Chile, $13.95): For the mixology impaired. This sparkler is married with Chilean strawberries to create a fruit-fest.

Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut Champagne (France, $75.95): Bollinger has been James Bond's brand since Pierce Brosnan first played the role, which makes this non-vintage version the go-to gift for a '007' fan.

If money is no object
Something for those who have been very good this year.

Bottega 2009 Il Vino Prêt-à-Porter Riserva Amarone della Valpolicella Classico (Italy, $99.95): Wrapped in leather and studs, this full-bodied Italian red will appeal to anyone with fashion sense and collectors who want their wines to cellar for at least five years.

Rémy Martin Louis XIII Cognac (France, $3,100): You can find more expensive booze, but this king of cognac — made from a blend of spirits up to 100 years old — is a bucket list brandy in a Baccarat crystal decanter.

Grey Goose VX Vodka (France, $100): Miles ahead of the flock of ultra-premium vodka, this reinterpretation of Grey Goose is in limited supply and lands with a hint of cognac added to the blend.

Patron Añejo Tequila (Mexico, $99.95): Forget about the lime juice; aged in oak for at least 12 months, this is tequila that begs to be sipped slowly, instead of hidden in a margarita.

**Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.*

Clockwise from top left: Bollinger Special Cuvée Brut Champagne, $75.95; Writer's Tears Whiskey, $50.75; Fresita, $13.95; Apothic Red, $15.95; Patron Anejo, $99.95.

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2014

20 shopping days left

The best way to watch movies

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Bring the movies home this holiday season. Instead of buying every family member a gift, go big and purchase a home theatre everyone can enjoy together. From curved screens to projectors, the choices are endless. Here are some of the best options to enjoy true movie magic.

LG 55EC9300 Curved OLED TV
$4,999.99

If you've never seen an OLED display, you don't know what you're missing. Not only is this 4K television insanely thin (5.08 mm), it displays rich colour and perfect blacks. The screen is also curved to create a more immersive viewing experience, drawing you into the action. With a price tag just shy of $5,000 you have to be pretty darn good for Santa to deliver this under the tree.

Samsung 55" Curved UHD TV
$4,199.00

Ultra-high definition televisions (4K) have four times the resolution of traditional high definition. This panel features four HDMI inputs so you can hook all your high-definition devices up without running out of space. What sets many Samsung TVs apart from the rest is the ability to upgrade processors after you buy them, which means you'll always have the latest technology. Keep in mind that Ultra-HD and 4K content is still limited.

Vizio 60" E Series Smart TV
$949.99

Proof you don't have to break the bank to get a big screen home for the holidays. New to Canada, the Vizio brand is known for bringing great picture quality at affordable prices. This stunning 60" display has lots of bells and whistles, including premium apps, and built-in Wi-Fi, yet the price is significantly cheaper than the competition.

BenQ HT1075 Projector
$999.99

You don't always need a lot of space to install a projector in your home theatre. This projector from BenQ is able to create a 100" HD image on any wall with as little as eight feet. The optional wireless package allows you to stream 1080p HD content from your favourite device across the room with no wires.

Epson 5030UB
$2,999.99

With ultra-black levels and THX certification, this premium projector is a movie buff's dream. Epson's 5030UB can project in both 2D and 3D on a screen up to 300 inches. It's not cheap, but when you consider how much money it is to take your family to the movies, this gorgeous projector will pay itself off in no time. Available online only.

Logitech Harmony Smart Keyboard
$149.99

A wireless keyboard, touchpad and remote control all in one. This handy device makes it easier to search for shows, and navigate menus on media devices like Roku and Apple TV. Activity buttons offer a one-touch solution to turning on your entertainment system without searching for individual remotes. Controls up to eight devices at once.

Sennheiser RS180 Wireless Headphones
$499.99

Tired of telling your family to turn down the volume on the television when you go to bed? These headphones may be the perfect gift. Comfortable fit with superb sound quality, these wireless headphones connect to devices giving you a personal audio experience without disturbing others. The wireless range is impressive, letting you walk as far as 328 feet from the base.

Apple TV
$109

A handy little device, which lets you watch movies, listen to music, and stream photos and videos from your Mac, iPad and iPhone to your television. Although the hardware hasn't been updated in a couple of years, it still remains one of the smallest and easiest to use devices for accessing Netflix.

Clockwise from bottom left: Vizio 60" E Series Smart TV, $949.99; Epson 5030UB, $2,999.99; LG 55EC9300 Curved OLED TV, $4,999.99; Samsung 55" Curved UHD TV, $4,199; BenQ HT1075 Projector, $999.99; Apple TV, $109; Sennheiser RS180 Wireless Headphones, $499.99; Logitech Harmony Smart Keyboard, $149.99.

Ho ho home viewing for the holidays

Yuletide TV. Any of these shows will get you in the festive spirit

RICK MCGINNIS
For Metro

Once upon a time we used to comb the TV guide with a pencil looking for the seasonal screenings of our favourite Christmas movies or TV specials — those annual chestnuts that we relied on to put us in our Yuletide happy place while the season's deadlines and shopping lists threatened to snuff out our Christmas spirit with a Grinch-like meanness.

Now, several TV shows have collected their holiday episodes and specials on DVD for the holidays.

For kids there's Octonauts: A Very Vegimal Christmas (Octonauts), Thomas & Friends: The Christmas Engines (Universal), Peppa Pig: Peppa's Christmas (EOne), and Penguins of Madacascar: Operation Special Delivery (ANConnect).

For grown-ups there's The Big Bang Theory: Holiday Episodes (Warner,) Robot Chicken's Christmas Specials (Warner), and the inevitable DVD reissues of the Bing Crosby chestnut White Christmas (Paramount) and Alistair Sim's essential A Christmas Carol (VCI) — colourized, so be warned. And if your Christmas has been altogether too peaceful and tasteful, there's Here Comes Honey Boo-Boo: A Very Boo Christmas (Discovery).

Finally, there's an informal home video tradition that Christmas is the season when overlooked classic films get dusted off and given the deluxe reissue treatment. This year KI Studio Classics has dug out Pocketful of Miracles, the last feature by Frank Capra (It's A Wonderful Life) starring Bette Davis, Glenn Ford and Ann-Margret, in a story about a gangster who helps a poor street vendor keep up the illusion that she's a grand society dame when her daughter visits from Europe.

Christmas Classics

- Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer debuted on NBC on Dec. 6, 1964, while A Charlie Brown Christmas first aired on CBC, Dec. 9, 1965, and won an Emmy.

Box sets for the TV lover

If someone on your Christmas list has asked for a honking fat box set of TV shows or movies, it's because they understand that Christmas isn't just the holly, jolly holiday near the end of the year, but the last time to stockpile entertainment for a long, tedious winter.

The big score this season is undoubtedly **Breaking Bad: The Complete Series (Sony)**, which comes packaged in a little chemical barrel with a printed episode guide, something called a "commemorative challenge coin" and an apron from Los Pollos Hermanos, Gustavo Fring's meth-brewing front business. Bonus material includes a two-hour documentary on the show, character profiles of Walt, Hank, Marie, Saul, Jesse and Skyler, and more.

Another cable series that recently completed its run is **True Blood**, which HBO is releasing in a complete series set that includes the secret files of Vamp Camp, and an interactive feature that helps you untangle the complicated relationships between characters both before and during its seven seasons.

For shut-ins of a certain generation, the top of their wishlist is probably occupied by **Pee-Wee's Playhouse: The Complete Series** (Shout Factory), the giddy and abidingly strange "is it really a children's TV show?" that was a favourite of Generation X during its mid-to-late '80s run. All forty-five episodes are here, as well as bonus features on the making of the show, the music, and reminiscences by actors and fans.

RICK MCGINNIS/FOR METRO

YEAR OF THE SHEEP / ANNÉES DU MOUTON : 2015, 2003, 1991, 1979, 1967, 1955, 1943, 1931, 1919

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP
BY GIVING A GIFT OF PRECIOUS METALS THIS SEASON!
2015 is ruled by the Sheep. This good-natured creature embodies wealth, warmth and loveliness.

EN CETTE PÉRIODE DES FÊTES, CÉLÉBREZ L'ANNÉE DU MOUTON
EN OFFRANT DES MÉTAUX PRÉCIEUX!
L'année 2015 est celle du Mouton. De nature foncièrement bonne, le mouton vit sous le signe de la richesse, de la chaleur et de la tendresse.

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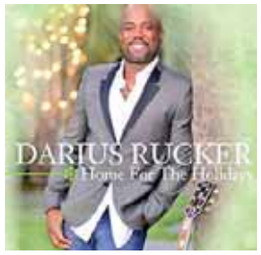
Favourite artists take on classics

CDs. Create a your own soundtrack this season

KEITH CARMAN
For Metro

Set the atmosphere with these latest works that will surely generate holiday cheer.



Blue Rodeo: A Merrie Christmas To You

Canadian rock mainstays Blue Rodeo issue their first Christmas-themed album with 10 tracks ranging from standards such as Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas and O Come All Ye Faithful.

Idina Menzel: Holiday Wishes

Frozen film star and Tony Award winner Idina Menzel steps into the musical realm with her debut Christmas album. Focusing on traditional material, the likes of A Holly Jolly Christmas and Do You Hear What I Hear through to her own rendition of Joni Mitchell track River.

LeAnn Rimes: One Christmas: Chapter One

Country superstar LeAnn Rimes has opted to issue a shorter album: One Christmas: Chapter One.

Earth Wind & Fire: Holiday

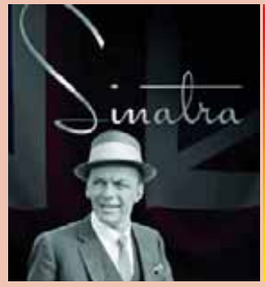
Revered R&B/soul/funk outfit Earth, Wind & Fire have waited 43 years to stake their claim in the holiday soundtrack game. Holiday is sure to be a hit.

Seth MacFarlane: Holiday For Swing

Best known for creating television's Family Guy and American Dad, writer/comedian/producer Seth MacFarlane's Holiday For Swing promises to be quite engaging. Guest appearances include Sara Bareilles and Norah Jones.

Darius Rucker: Home For The Holidays

Best-known as the front man for '90s pop stars Hootie & the Blowfish, Darius Rucker has certainly reinvented himself as a bona fide country artist. He serves up a 12-track album showcasing originals alongside seasonal staples.



A roundup of the best music box sets

Great things still come in relatively small packages. While downloading has quickly become one of the largest trends in obtaining music, there's still nothing like a tangible copy of your favourite artist's works. Here are a few of the more celebrated Yuletide offerings.

Frank Sinatra Sinatra: London

Packed into three discs and a DVD, Sinatra: London brings together this unforgettable pop culture figure's fabled 1962 British recording session into one package.

Pink Floyd The Endless River

Their first album in two decades finds British progressive rockers Pink Floyd doling out a two-disc deluxe CD/Blu-ray (or DVD) edition of The Endless River.

The Kinks The Anthology 1964 -1971

Quintessential rockers The Kinks may have been together for less than a decade but as this comprehensive five-disc collection asserts, they certainly weren't short on hits.

KEITH CARMAN/FOR METRO

Bundle up with these gift ideas

Fairisle Toque, Girls, $16.94, Old Navy, oldnavy.ca

Moose Faux Fur Hat, $12, Joe Fresh, joefresh.com/ca.

Blue Faux Fur Hat, $10, Joe Fresh, joefresh.com/ca.

TOMS Slouchy Hats, $10, Convertible Mittens, $12, Target Canada, target.ca.

Multi-Coloured Knit Mittens, $8, Joe Fresh, joefresh.com/ca.

Part of the Pink Hat Set, $14, Joe Fresh, joefresh.com/ca.

Peppy the Penguin Pilot Hat, $26.95, Mittens, $22.95, Indigo, indigo.ca.

Blue Crazy Stripe Trapper Hat, Boys, $26.95, Gap Kids, gapcanada.ca.

Animal Hats, $7, Michaels, canada.michaels.com.

Crazy Stripe Mittens, Boys, $19.95, Gap Kids, gapcanada.ca.

Animal Mittens, $6, Michaels, canada.michaels.com.

Deck the halls with red accents

Naughty/Nice Wool Pillows, $64.50/each, Indigo, indigo.ca.

Holiday Essentials Santa Mini Mug, $3, Loloblaws, loblaws.ca.

Colourblock Stocking, 21.5", $14.99, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Knitted Wreath, $19.99, Lowes, lowes.ca.

Holiday Ribbon Dessert Plates, $38.50 (set of 4), Indigo, indigo.ca.

Santa Belt Pillow, $36.99, Michaels, canada.michaels.com.

Holiday Essentials Santa Tea Pot, $10, Loblaws, loblaws.ca.

Red Stripe Fur Cuff Stocking, $24.50, Indigo, indigo.ca.

Burlap Santa Sacks, $5.99 each, Winners and HomeSense: winners.ca, homesense.ca.

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Late Habs captain

Jean Béliveau to get state funeral

As befits one of the rarest and greatest sporting heroes Montreal has ever known, Canadiens legend Jean Béliveau will be getting an honour rarely accorded to non-politicians: A state funeral.

Béliveau, who died Tuesday at age 83, will be given "funérailles nationals" next Wednesday, Dec. 10, Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard announced Wednesday afternoon.

"Mr. Béliveau was respected, admired, but above all loved by Quebecers," said Couillard in a written statement. " ... Everyone remembers Mr. Béliveau as one of the best players in the history of the National Hockey League, but above all, as a gentleman. He filled not just Quebec with pride, but the whole world of hockey."

Béliveau, will "lay in wake" at the Bell Centre Sunday and Monday. His funeral will be held next Wednesday at the Mary Queen of the World Cathedral. Provincial flags will fly at half-mast across Quebec until after the funeral.

In 2000, tens of thousands of Montrealers lined the streets to pay tribute to the only other athlete to be accorded state funeral honours in Quebec, Béliveau's old teammate, Maurice (Rocket) Richard.

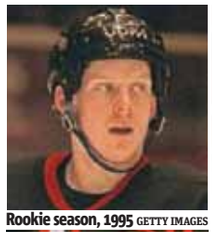
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Beliveau's playoff stats

A story in Thursday's Metro on Jean Béliveau should have read that the Canadiens great was the all-time leading playoff scorer with 176 points in 162 games at the time of his retirement in 1971.

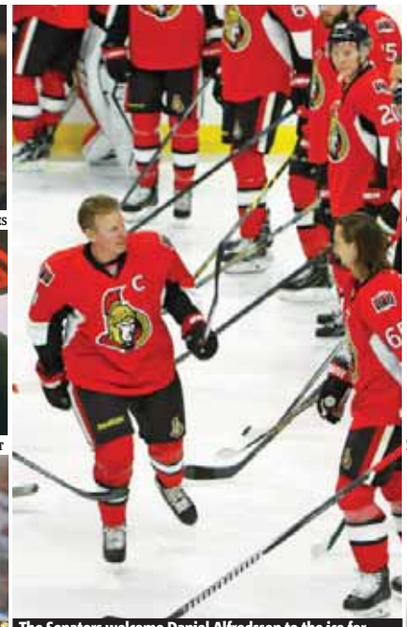
Alfie finally back 'where he belongs'

NHL. Former captain takes final laps on CTC ice before Sens game


Rookie season, 1995 GETTY IMAGES

Calder winner, June '96 ALLSPORT

Vs. Leafs, April '04 GETTY IMAGES


The Senators welcome Daniel Alfredsson to the ice for warm-up before Thursday's game against the New York Islanders. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gold-medal game, '06 GETTY IMAGES

Stanley Cup final, '07 GETTY IMAGES

Winter Classic, '14 GETTY IMAGES

Daniel Alfredsson laced up his skates at his old stall in the Senators' locker-room and put on the No. 11 jersey with the "C" on the chest just like old times. Except this was anything like old times.

Players stepped onto the ice for warm-ups and made a receiving line for the man who earlier in the day announced his retirement. They tapped their sticks and Alfredsson saluted the adoring crowd for the first of many times as "Alfie" chants rained down.

A remix of Alfredsson's former goal song and one of his favourites, U2's Beautiful Day, played. This was a one-of-a-kind moment for a one-of-a-kind face of the franchise.

The traditional countdown to 11 minutes on the clock happened even before the game against the New York Islanders. Alfredsson met with team leaders Erik Karlsson, Chris Phillips and Chris Neil as he always used to, took a few line rushes and got to take part in his favourite post-practice game of keep-away.

"Being a part of it, in Ottawa, this is where he belongs," Neil, who played 11 seasons with Alfredsson, said before the game. "If it happened in Detroit it just wouldn't be the same."

Karlsson, the ninth captain in Senators history and Alfredsson's best friend on the team, even took the "C" off his jersey for warm-ups.

While the Islanders went about their business, no Ottawa player left the ice until Alfredsson took one last lap with his stick raised. The 41-year-old, signed a ceremonial one-day contract in order to retire with the Sens.

Alfredsson took one more lap, with the spotlight on him, and stood at centre ice waiting for wife Bibi and sons Hugo, Loui, Fenix and William Erik to join him. They took their place on the red carpet like Ottawa royalty, and Alfredsson thanked the fans "for all the great moments and all the beautiful memories."

He didn't want to say goodbye. The Alfredsson family sang along to 'O Canada,' and then the former captain had a ceremonial faceoff with the puck dropped by the kids.

Alfredsson, who promised this year would be for his family, skated off alongside his wife as he left the ice at Canadian Tire Centre for the final time. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MacArthur gives up his spot

"There's going to be a lot of jitters. I'm already nervous. I don't know why as it has nothing to do with me, but it's going to be a big night."

Senators winger Clarke MacArthur who didn't mind being relegated to a corner seat in the locker-room to allow Daniel Alfredsson to return to his regular stall one last time

Former mates remember Ottawa legend

As news of Daniel Alfredsson's impending retirement spread over the past week, teammates from near and far shared their unique perspectives on what made the former Senators captain special.

"He wasn't a loud guy, but he had so much respect from everyone," said Magnus Arvedson, who played six seasons with Alfredsson in Ottawa. "He was one of the hardest working players, if not the hardest worker. He cared about everyone and wanted to make sure every player was happy. He was trustworthy, smart and just a solid person so people wanted to play for him."

"He loved to lead by example, but he knew when to stand up and speak," added former Senators defenceman Wade Redden. "He somehow knew when something needed to be said."

In 17 seasons with the Senators, 13 as captain, Alfredsson holds the club's franchise records for goals (426), assists (682) and points (1,108) with 1,178 games played. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Lasting impression

"He always left it all on the ice. He was smart, passionate, determined and he had a will to get what he wanted."

Former Sens goalie Patrick Lalime , who played with Alfredsson for five seasons

Alfredsson and GM Bryan Murray embrace after Thursday's new conference. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Cohon to step down in January

Life after the CFL will begin in early January for Mark Cohon.

The league announced Thursday that Cohon will step down as commissioner Jan. 9 under a mutual agreement between Cohon and the league's board of governors. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

Eugenie Bouchard named female player of 2014

Eugenie Bouchard is Tennis Canada's female player of the year after making the Wimbledon final and two other Grand Slam semi-finals, jumping from 32nd to fifth in the WTA world rankings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Eugenie Bouchard playing in Singapore in October. Canada's highest-ranked singles player ever was named 2014's female player MOHD FYROL/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Curling

Homan defeats Nedohin with her final stone

Rachel Homan drew to the button with her final stone to score one and beat Heather Nedohin 5-4 on Thursday at the Home Hardware Canada Cup curling tournament.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rio 2016

Brassard named chef de mission

Olympic moguls champion Jean-Luc Brassard will be Canada's chef de mission for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Brassard competed in four Olympic Games, capturing gold in 1994 in Lillehammer, in Canada's first-ever Olympic gold in skiing. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the road. Casey extols 'business approach'

It is perhaps the greatest compliment that could have been paid to the Raptors.

They had just easily dismantled an inferior foe under what could have been difficult circumstances, the second game of a back-to-back in an arena that's notoriously hard on visiting teams, with their top scorer back home injured and questions abounding about recent defensive slippage.

Any number of former Raptors teams would have given in to one or all of those difficulties, folded in the face of adversity, shied from the moment.

This group?

This group took the game by the throat in the opening minutes and never let go, leaving coach Dwane Casey to offer high praise indeed.

"We're developing a business approach, a professional approach, a mature approach about the game and that's what you ask for from a team like this that's young," he said after Toronto crushed the Utah Jazz 123-104 for its second successive win on a quick three-game western foray.

"We came in and took care of business. There wasn't any bullcrap, there wasn't any laughing and joking around. Guys came in with a focused attitude to start the game."

Raptors coach Dwane Casey THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

There does seem to be some steely resolve to this group, something that doesn't let them get shaken by anything. With all that could have gone wrong — and all that would have been understandable when explained — they hung a 69-point first half on the Jazz and simply beat them into submission.

Kyle Lowry had a career-high 39 points, five other Raptors were in double figures and Casey was even OK with Toronto's defensive effort.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Acing the slopes of Lake Louise

Mirjam Puchner of Austria races down the hill during the third training run for the World Cup women's downhill ski race on Thursday in Lake Louise, Alta. Puchner and fellow Austrian Anna Fenninger were fastest while U.S. star Lindsey Vonn was 13th. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Herdman sees turf as a 'home advantage'

Women's soccer. Canada's coach shies away from controversy over players' lawsuit against FIFA, Canadian Soccer Association

While some denigrate the use of artificial turf at the Women's World Cup, Canada's English coach John Herdman pragmatically sees it as an advantage.

The Canadian women have stayed out of the fray, for the most part.

Players behind a legal challenge surrounding the artificial surface elected not to involve the Canadians, given that the Canadian Soccer Association doubles as the 2015 tournament's organizing committee.

Herdman says he and his staff have tried to keep the chatter about the legal challenge out of sight and out of mind.

"Pretty much all our home matches over the last two years have been on turf.

"So it's not a shock. It's a consistent surface for our players. There are definite pros of doing it. There are also cons in many people's mind. But I think what's been great about our players (is) they just accepted the challenge and said, 'Look, we'll become turf experts. We'll become experts at playing on turf and we'll use that as one of our home advantages over the opponents who may have a mindset and be stuck on other things."'

The lawyer for the women challenging artificial turf kept the pressure up Thursday ahead of Saturday's tournament draw by releasing another letter to FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke.

Unable to get the FIFA executive to talk to players via a conference call, lawyer Hampton Dellinger sent a 'Top 10 list of pressing questions.'

No. 3 reads "How can you justify playing the World Cup final at Vancouver's BC Place on a surface that players have likened to concrete?"

The letter also questions the credentials and connections of FIFA consultants and experts as well as the difference between prize money at the men's and women's tournaments.

A group of top female players has filed a challenge in the Human Rights Tribunal of Ontario, arguing that playing on artificial turf at the Women's World Cup is discriminatory because the men play their showcase tournament on grass.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"A lot of these players (in) North America are used to playing on turf, so it won't be a major shock."

Canada's women's soccer coach John Herdman on the controversy over artificial turf in the 2015 World Cup in Canada.

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will be your assertive self today and over the weekend. That's good because you need to let people know you're serious about your ambitions.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Something you have been working hard towards is most likely not worth the effort, but that's OK. Once you accept that, you can make other plans.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
The approaching full moon will affect you more than most because it takes place in your sign, and if you get through the next few days emotionally unscathed count yourself lucky!

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You seem to be on the defensive and that's probably no bad thing. Most likely no one is out to get you but it will pay you to be cautious anyway.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may be easygoing by nature but the approaching full moon warns you need to stay sharp over the next 48 hours. Also, don't say things just to make others feel good .

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Anyone who thinks you lack the killer instinct will have to revise their opinion now that you have a specific target to aim for. Nothing and no one will be allowed to stand in your way.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You may be rather emotional over the next few days but what of it? The planets indicate your tears are just as likely to be tears of joy as tears of sorrow.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't be happy to discover that someone has been digging around in your personal affairs, and quite right too. Not that you've got a guilty conscience but your business is private.

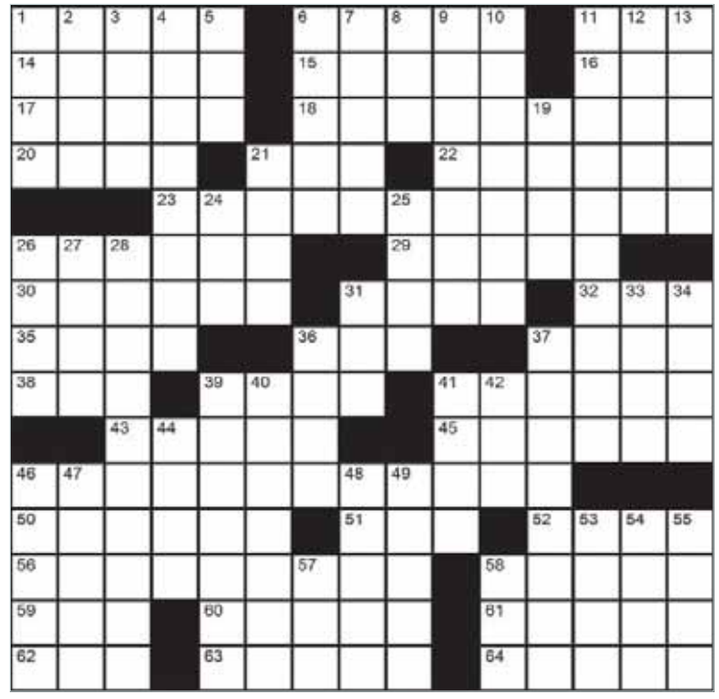
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Your main task today is to look rationally at what is upsetting you. Stand back from your personal feelings and ask yourself if it is of any real importance. Most likely it isn't.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Try not to focus on details today because if you do you could miss the bigger picture. You will need to look both far and deep to stay a step ahead of rivals.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that something you've been working on is not going to be the success you envisioned. Chances are though you will be quite happy to call it a day as it frees up time.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You may exchange a heated words with someone and the bad feeling will continue into the weekend. It will all be over come the start of next week.

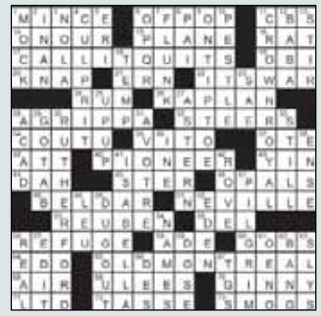
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Canadian actress Ms. Follows
6. Cop _ __ (Bargain in court)
11. Platter mixture
14. Lofty layer
15. Jennifer of "Flashdance" (1983)
16. __ _ hurry
17. Hockey great Mr. Hull
18. Travels across Europe
20. Wrapped garment
21. Outlying
22. Basket-__ sword
23. 1981 prehistoric movie for Canadian actress Rae Dawn Chong: 3 wds.
26. Clues/trail follower
29. Joe Cocker's "You __ __ Beautiful"
30. __ algebra
31. Sea eagles [var. sp.]
32. Non-verbal 'yes'
35. Hosp. readouts
36. 'Tour' suffix
37. Ms. Flynn Boyle
38. Techie erase button
39. Langley and Edwards, e.g., in The States
41. The Water-__ (Aquarius)
43. Basket fibre
45. 'Small Community Big Heart' in Manitoba
46. Blue Rodeo song: 2 wds.
50. Theatre workers
51. "Case of the Ex" songstress
52. __ Sea, in Central Asia
56. Navigation instruments
58. "Hard Sun" by __, aka Canadian musician Gordon Peterson
59. _ __ carte
60. Yo-Yo Ma's instrument
61. BC - Haida Gwaii: UNESCO World Heritage Site, __ Gwaay
62. Ottawa polit.
63. 50 Cent album: 'Get Rich or Die __"
64. Checks

Down
1. Gangster groupings
2. Ian Harding's role on "Pretty Little Liars", __ Fitz
3. Movie-__
4. "__ Roadshow"
5. Butterfly catcher
6. "Dancing Queen" group's
7. Rush drummer Neil
8. Lake: French
9. Manitoba village, 'An Age Friendly Community'
10. Ambitiously aims
11. French-English/ English-French book
12. Type of comic book artist
13. __ __ deux (Duet's dance)
19. Planet Melmac alien's
21. Canadian actor Brendan
24. Marathoner Ms. Pippig
25. Countryside sight
26. Wintertime hill ride
27. Admire
28. BC: __ River Falls Provincial Park
31. Feminine suffix
33. Baseball's Mr. Hershiser
34. Challenge
36. "_ __ to differ."
37. ZZ Top song: 2 wds.
39. Draw
40. One using dental thread
41. "Who Let the Dogs Out" by __ Men
42. Earlier, poetically
44. Bit of choreography
46. 1986 Corey Haim film
47. Serenader's song: "_ __ Mio"
48. Ms. Sande of song
49. Actress Cicely
53. Nutrition amts.
54. BTO's "You __ Seen Nothing Yet"
55. Cabin-creating components
57. Knavish
58. 'Capital' suffix

Yesterday's Crossword



Online
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	8	4	2	7	9	1	3
1	3	4	8	9	6	5	7	2
7	9	2	3	1	5	8	6	4
2	8	6	7	5	1	3	4	9
9	1	3	2	6	4	7	5	8
4	7	5	9	8	3	6	2	1
5	4	7	1	3	9	2	8	6
8	6	9	5	4	2	1	3	7
3	2	1	6	7	8	4	9	5

	9	2			5			4
								8
				6				
6	3				7	2		
		9		4		1		
		5	8				4	9
				1				
1								
8			9			3	6	

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